

TEACHING THEORIES & METHODS

1. Learning definition:

- It is an active process of transformation of ideas, translation of meaning, formation of attitude, skills and values.

2. Teaching definition:

- Simply defined as the intended behavior which the aims is to induce learning
- Complicatedly defined as “teaching is to lead learners to attain mental goals’ and the strategies involve communication, leadership, motivation and control through either discipline or management.”

3. Teaching theories:

- Behaviorism:
 - Teacher simply to administer the correct stimulus in order to achieve behavioral change. Focuses very much on punishment and reward, and setting the right climate and environment for learning.
 - First, a task analysis should be understood in order to determine the behavioral changes needed to accomplish the task. Then, the instructor should prescribe a sequence of learning events to which will enable the learner to reach the goal.
 - “The worst mistake my generation has made is to treat people as if they were rats” – Skinner (1990)
- Cognitivism:
 - Learning could be achieved by facilitating and encouraging the appropriate thought process of the learner.
 - It is important to understand the learner’s existing mental structures.

- Constructivism:
 - Learning is an active process which learners construct new ideas or concepts upon their current/past knowledge
 - Teaching strategies should be tailored to student responses and encourage students to analyse, interpret and predict information. Teachers also rely heavily on open-ended questions and promote extensive dialogue among students
 - “No man’s knowledge can go beyond experience” – John Locke.
- Humanism:
 - Teaching learning process became totally student centre and self-directed and the teacher to act as facilitator rather than controlling the learners.
 - Human being are different from other species and possess capacities not found in animals (Edwards, 1989).
 - Humanist, therefore, give primacy to the study of human needs and interests. A central assumption is that human beings behave out of intentionality and values (Kurtz, 2000)
 - According to Gage and Berliner (1991) some basic principles of the humanistic approach that were used to develop the objectives are:
 - Student will learn best what they want and need to know.
 - Knowing how to learn is more important than acquiring a lot of knowledge.
 - Self-evaluation is the only meaningful evaluation of a student’s work.
 - Feelings are as important as facts.
 - Students learn best in a non-threatening environment.

4. Methods based on size of class:

- Small group teaching
 - Number of students 10-15 in a class?
 - Interactive mode of teaching
- Large group discussion
 - More than 15 students in a class
 - Teacher speak, student listen

5. List of methods:

- Lecture
- Lecture with discussion
- Panel of experts
- Brainstorming
- Videotapes
- Class discussion
- Small group discussion
- Case studies
- Role playing
- Report-back session
- Worksheet/survey
- Index and exercise
- Guest speaker
- Values clarification exercise
- Video conference
- Telecourse
- Individualized contract courses
- Computer assisted instruction
- Web based courses
- Web enhance courses