

TEACHING SKILLS & ITS IMPORTANCE

1. Introduction

- Teaching is a highly complex process and needs to be broken down into meaningful and acquirable parts for the learner.
- These skills which are observable teaching behavior are basic to effective teaching
- To become a good teacher and to create a good class room environment a teacher needs to have core qualities

2. Importance of teaching skills

- To teach is to learn twice (Joseph Joubert)
- Teachers need to aware that they have teaching styles. So it is important that the teaching style of the teacher need to match with the learning style of the student for effective learning
- Appropriate teaching skills likely to enhance the learning of all students
- The social interactions are more important than information delivery. So appropriate teaching skills helps to build that bondage between teacher and student
- It helps to stimulate the thinking process of the students and thereby helps them to take the right approaches of learning
- It helps obtaining regular, systemic feedback from the teacher
- It helps students to develop critical thinking and there by helps them to develop total understanding of the subject/topic.
- It helps students to motivate and ready them to learn
- Helps students organize their work in sequential cumulative fashion
- Appropriate teaching skills provide students with standards for self evaluation

3. Attributes of a good and skillful teacher

- Why do some teachers inspire students to work three times harder than they normally would, while others inspire students to skip class?
- Why do students learn more from some teachers than others?
- If you are trying to be better teacher these are the important questions you have to answer by yourself.
- Experiment have shows students identified the qualities of a good teacher fall into two specific categories:
 - A set of core qualities that students recognize in good teachers
 - A set of specific skills that are developed by good teachers
- Core qualities – essential characteristics that are needed to be a good teacher:
 - Knowledge
 - Good teacher must be an expert in his/her field
 - Communication
 - They have the ability to communicate and understand their knowledge and expertise to their students. A good teacher allows students to understand the material and to understand what it means.
 - Interest
 - Good teacher make the 1st class interesting and relevant to the students. They make students want to learn the subject
 - Respect
 - Good teacher has a deep seated concern and respect for the students in the classroom
 - “Give me a fish o eat for a day, teach me to fish and I eat for life time” – this is the philosophy of a good teacher –
- Specific skills – good and effective teacher interact with students in a skillful manner:

- They established a rapport with the class
- The teachers got right down to the business. They began class promptly and their class are well organized
- They taught at an appropriate fast pace, but stopped regularly to check student comprehension
- They use a variety of instructional strategies
- They focused on the topic and their instructional objectives never get side tracked
- They use humor that is in keeping with their own style
- They practice good class room management techniques, holding the attention and respect of the group
- They interact with the students by providing immediate answer to questions and comments and corrective feedback when needed.
- They praise student answer and use probing question to extend the answer
- They provide a warm class room climate by allowing students to speak freely
- They use nonverbal behaviour such as gestures, walking around and eye contact to reinforce their comment.

4. How can you develop teaching skills?

- To develop teaching skills any teacher should take a more sympathetic approach for the assessment and development of their teaching skills
- Four basic steps are necessary
 - To start with, a teacher must want to develop the skills and be prepared to learn- **preparedness to learn**
 - Teacher must consider his/her needs and interests in order to decide what he/she wanted to learn – **own need assessment**

- Teacher need to **seek feedback** and information in relation to his/her performance
- Teacher should be prepared to **try out new methods** or variations suggested by the feedback
- Preparedness to learn
 - Readiness to learn and motivation to improve are the prerequisite
- Own need assessment
 - Teacher should decide what task or responsibilities they will undertake for teaching i.e. components of the teacher's task should be defined
 - Determine what are the good or not good at doing
 - The areas that cause concern are a good starting point for your teaching skills development
- Seeking feedback on his/her performance
 - Self confrontation
 - Excellent method of confronting is to view self performance on a video tape recording
 - It is important because teacher discover for his/herself what actual he/she need to know
 - Student feedback
 - Provide student with opportunity to give you feedback. If someone don't want – don't ask it from them
 - Develop your own questionnaire in relation to your need assessment
 - Choose questions which reflect areas of teaching over which you have control i.e. you could possibly improve if you wish
 - Determine which areas students are qualified to give feedback
 - Try to be as simple and as straight forward as you can

- Feedback from colleagues or educational consultant
 - Feedback from colleagues are a good supplement to student feedback
 - Educational experts are at their best as they help you decide what your problems are and what you want to do about them
- Feedback from student performance
 - Feedback is also important from the outcome of the teaching process
 - The assessment of student progress, therefore an important ingredient in the development of teaching skills
- Trying new methods of teaching
 - No single idea or method in education is suitable for all teachers in the variety of teaching situation
 - Each teacher must develop his/her teaching style in accordance with capabilities and personal characteristics the student, the subject matter and other situational consideration

5. Teaching is as recent report (Higher Education Research Program, 1989) term it **the business of the business**

- Good teaching – more than simple transmission of information and includes motivating students and creating a positive classroom environment as well.