

Emerging Trends in Teaching and Learning

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Abstract

Any change in the behavior of an individual, which is through interaction with the environment is learning. It is a relatively permanent change in the behavior of the individual through experience, instruction or study and it is measurable. People around the globe are improving their lives by learning many skills in the educational institutions. Development of Human civilization depends on its learned citizens. Every incident in life, gives an opportunity to a person to learn new things and grow in life. Teaching is educating and imparting knowledge and skills. It is this ability to learn and teach that has taught human beings to adapt to the various changes in the society. Changes takes place very fast in this era of globalization. And to adjust and adapt to the changing scenario of this world, it is necessary to first change the teaching and learning process to incorporate the new trends. Every time technology advances, new methods of teaching and learning also emerge with it. In the dynamic world of today, teaching and learning process has evolved to a great degree to suit the needs of the people. In this paper the author tries to highlight the different emerging trends in teaching and learning. The paper also tries to analyze the need for new methods and trends in the teaching and learning process.

Key words: M-Learning, E-Learning,

Introduction: In the words of Confucius, “Learning without thought is labor lost. Thought without learning is intellectual death”. It is said that learning starts from womb to tomb. A man is in a continuous process of learning throughout his life. We only stop learning when we die. This quality of learning and knowing new things in life has helped man to develop from the stage of early man to the age of technology and science. In this age it is expected that a student is ready to accept challenges of advancing technology and shoulder the responsibility of social transformation with the proper use of his training and skills with spiritual and human values and professional ethics. As changes are there in all the fields of life, similarly there has been change in the field of education also. To keep a pace with the changing demands in education in this age of ICT, there has to emerge new trends in teaching and learning as well. This paper tries to highlight few emerging trends in the teaching and learning process.

Rationale of the study: Teaching and learning is a continuous process and it is dependent and inseparable from each other. The proper development of an individual and also the growth of society depend on the effectiveness

of teaching and learning. Since rapid technological development is taking place in the society, methodology which is new and best suited to the present scenario has to emerge to make the teaching and learning process most effective. There are many emerging trends in the teaching and learning process. A teacher should be aware of these new trends that have emerged in the teaching and learning process. This paper points out few emerging trends in the teaching and learning process. It also tries to study the advantages and disadvantages of these emerging trends.

Objectives of the study: The following are the objectives of the study:

1. To find out the emerging trends in the teaching process.
2. To find out the emerging trends in the learning process.
3. To find out the advantages and disadvantages of a selected few methods.

New trends in teaching and learning: William Feather has rightly said that in education it isn't how much you have committed to memory or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't know. It's knowing where to go to

find out what you need to know and its knowing how to use the information you get.

For the survival and growth of an institution, it is necessary that it adapts to the needs and requirements of the emerging generation. In today's technology based generation, teaching cannot be restricted to classrooms or chalk and board. All are familiar with the classroom methods of teaching that includes: the jigsaw technique, the gallery walk method, discussion, concept sketches, using case studies, debates, just-in-time teaching and role playing method. As the generation changes and as a result of the change in technology and thinking the expectations and requirements of the Learning-teaching process also have changed. Today, all are looking for exposure and faster learning that is convenient and easily accessible. Today, learning teaching process is looked as a group work where, neither is the teacher is seen as an instructor nor the student a silent listener. Today the student and the teacher play an active role and teaching has gone to the next step of mentoring and supporting. Collaborative learning, Team Teaching and

Challenge based learning, Inquiry learning and Instructional Scaffolding are methods that have helped to achieve this result.

The common technology assisted methods used in teaching and learning are:

- 1) Electronic based learning which is popularly called as E-learning
- 2) Mobile based learning which is popularly called as M-learning
- 3) Auto didacticism which is self-directed learning

The various dimensions of the Teaching – Learning process: Teaching and learning are both multi-dimensional process and are inter-related to each other. Teacher plays a very important role in the process. The role of the Teacher includes creating the right atmosphere where learning can take place. A teacher is a person who can inspire the students to learn and realize their potential. Teaching and learning is not only limited to the class rooms today. Teaching includes interaction, understanding, inspiring, guiding and mentoring the students. Learning involves

Active participation, interaction, construction and transformation. Today, teaching is the

process of igniting the fire in the students to identify their true potential and reach great heights. Learning is the process of becoming aware of one's abilities and moving ahead in the right direction under the guidance of the Teacher. In order to adapt to the changing requirements and to achieve good result, it is essential that new trends and methods emerge in the learning and teaching process.

Technology Assisted Methods: E-learning, M-learning and Auto didacticism have changed the traditional concept of teaching and learning. Technology has revolutionized the teaching – learning process as it has reached every doorstep and education has become accessible for everyone. It was once said by John Holt that, "*The biggest enemy to learning is the talking teacher*". He meant that the role of a teacher was to inspire and create the atmosphere where learning can take place instead of just teaching. Today, technology has proved this in the literal sense. In E-learning and M-learning, we have teachers who does not speak and at the same time students have access to a great arena of information and get details of all most all the topics. Through E-learning and M-learning, students get learning experiences from teacher who are spread throughout the world. To be par with technology and the emerging trends, there are many educational institutes that provide e-books and notes online. Today with the emergence of E-learning and M-learning, teaching and learning can take place anywhere and anytime. Specially, Mobile learning can be considered as an hi-tech, compact and sophisticated method of learning.

There are many advantages of E-learning and M-learning such as no time constraint, information is easily accessible, more reference material available etc. Both these types of learning have broken the barriers of time and place. However, there are many disadvantages as well of technology based learning. There is no teacher-student relationship which is needed for developing values and discipline in the students. At times learning takes place without proper understanding and its constant use may be strain for the eyes.

Auto didacticism is self-directed learning. It is learning by you. He becomes a self teacher. A

lot can be learned by own experience. A lesson learnt in life teaches a great lesson.

Auto didacticism is a, absorptive, contemplative procession. Many autodidacts spend a great time of theirs in reviewing the resources in the libraries and institutional websites. At any point of time in life one can become an autodidact. Auto didacticism is complemented by learning in formal and informal spaces: from classrooms to other social settings. Many autodidacts seek instruction and guidance from experts, friends, teachers, parents, siblings, and community.

Conclusion: Quoting Winston Churchill, *“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.”* As time changes, teaching and learning process also has to change and a proper understanding of the emerging trends in teaching and learning is essential for better outcome. E-Learning and M-Learning have made learning and teaching more sophisticated, compact and easily accessible however its

impact and the result it can produce is still a topic for debate. Arthur C. Clarke said, *“Before you become too entranced with gorgeous gadgets and mesmerizing video displays, let me remind you that information is not knowledge, knowledge is not wisdom, and wisdom is not foresight. Each grows out of the other, and we need them all”*.

It is necessary to be aware and to have a proper understanding of the emerging trends in learning and teaching. We tried to analyze the selected trends and discuss their advantages and disadvantages. As in any other process, E-Learning/M-Learning has its advantages and disadvantages and the result depends on the human mind that uses it. E-Learning and M-Learning are emerging trends in learning and teaching and are widely used in different places however; it is doubtful if it can be used as an effective formal method for learning and teaching.

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