



MODERN TRENDS IN EDUCATION DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO LEARNING

KEYWORDS

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The traditional "chalk and talk" method of teaching that's persisted for hundreds of years is now acquiring inferior results when compared with the more modern and revolutionary teaching methods that are available for use in schools today. Greater student interaction is encouraged, the boundaries of authority are being broken down, and a focus on enjoyment over grades is emphasised.

As teachers, it's necessary to be able to teach and remain engaging. It puts a greater level of responsibility on creating lesson plans that truly work. Here are three teaching methods that are making an impact.

Education sprouts in many forms depending on how you look at it. Our views of what it should look like and how it should materialize depend on our value of it and our experience with it.

Take a tour of 22 different views of education that somehow find a similar note: Education must change.

1. Spaced Learning

Teachers have reported amazing results when it came to spaced learning. Spaced Learning is a learning method in which the condensed learning content is repeated three times, with two 10-minute breaks during which activities such as physical activities are performed by the students – I think, that PE and lessons can be combined.

Spaced learning involves encouraging students to quickly switch through activities. For example, providing ten minutes of knowledge on the nervous system with a PowerPoint presentation and then having 15 minutes of basketball would be the way to get the better grades.

2. Flexible Fridays

Sometimes conventional lesson blocks just don't work as every student is different and they all have their problematic subjects. The concept of Flexible Fridays is that an in-depth session of a subject can be acquired by simply having a whole day of mathematics or some other subject.

At Flexible Friday's lessons a teacher try to help each student to study and learn what is the most difficult for him/her personally. Somebody repeats, somebody learns. It makes it more convenient for students as now they can focus on one thing while in school. It means that students don't have a breaking point by spending hours struggling with a subject along at home.

Teachers also find it easier as they can keep their lesson plans and simply go over them again with a more personal touch. Flexible Friday lessons are more in-touch with students and gives focused study time that can help students

grasp difficult concepts.

3. Engagement

Under a new teaching method called "engagement" students are urged to engage with the real world, analyse everything that happens in different life spheres (not only internship but also economical, business, social spheres, etc.).

Multiple days were set aside for this practice and all students were required to wear business suits in order to attend. The idea is to get students engaged and to connect their learning to the real world. If teachers can show them how what they are teaching connects to the real world then their own brain cells are going to connect them and associate them.

The results are there for all to see because before this new method was introduced only 40 percent of students achieved grades of A-C across both years 10 and 11. Under the new teaching method the institution reported that the numbers had shot up to a massive 91 percent of students achieving A-Cs in years 10 and year 11.

New methods of teaching have the purpose to improve the quality of education and involve students in educational process. Innovations mean a progress and development.

4. Ground up Diversity

Sir Ken Robinson campaigns changing education through talks, writing, advising, and teaching. He believes education must change because it's a stale environment in which most students don't really learn what they should or want to learn. How that happens makes all the difference—from the ground up. People, students, and teachers create the change not the administrators or the executives.

5. Social Networking

With social networking growing to the point that Technorati last tracked about 70 million updated blogs, using social networking to teach any subject and catapult students into a realm other than stagnant learning means blending the traditional education with modern communication. Many educators believe this is the route to engaging students in learning all the basic skills they need.

6. Talking Education

Educators believe using talking or videos to review lessons and teach concepts helps students learn and retain more. Between student and Teacher, education talks a lot about everything. Students love movement, television and film so utilizing these snippets of information transforms the meaning of learning especially for many students who are strapped for time.

7. Underground Education

According to John Taylor Gatto, teachers should choose the real world over the classroom. Students don't learn to live or survive in a classroom. They learn to survive in the real world so the concept of underground education challenges educators in any walk of life to give students the tools with which to live and breathe in the world around them. If the lesson must be taught, then teach it thinking of who they might become.

8. Navdanya

Dr. Vadana Shiva's mission lives and breathes in Navdanya, an organization that promotes self-reliance and earth democracy. The leaders of the organization are women who find strength in women's movements and give women a voice. Earth democracy developed from the idea of seed saving helping local communities become self-reliant.

9. Social Status

Even more significant to learning than being an asset, social status plays an underlying role in the education of a small or large group of people whether it's an entire country's agenda or certain sections or communities within that country. In other words, if that community puts importance on education as a social benefit, students and people in that community will strive to achieve it in order to raise their status in the community.

10. Lesson Study

Originating in Japan, lesson study applies to style of teaching. Conceptually, lesson study promotes the idea that teachers constantly improve and change their style of teaching based on students' performance and reaction to it. It sounds like what we already do but not exactly. Collaboration between teachers is paramount and so is change. Combining these two factors with constant change means students never stop learning.

11. Problem Based Learning

In regards to tertiary education, problem based learning is gaining popularity in Australia. Students are given a real-world problem then they work together to find a solution to this. In Australia, nursing programmes have begun to embrace this style of teaching and learning because it challenges the students to work as if they're dealing with real problems they'll encounter in the workplace. Teachers find it invaluable because students learn more with this method.

12. Learning with Technologies

Another view found all around the world but also heavily used in Australia surrounds the use of technologies as the key to students improving their learning abilities and their marketability. Within the realm of technologies, teachers encourage students to innovate, bringing them full-circle into the 21st century where survival and stability rule.

13. MOOCs & eLearning

Free education has materialized in the form of eLearning and Massive Open Online Courses as a direct result of students wanting to learn but not having the resources to do so whether that means they don't have the money or the background to achieve their learning goals.

14. Herbert Stein's Law

Herbert Stein's Law states, "If something can't go on forever, it will stop." Many within and outside of the field of education have latched onto this law as a wake-up call to educators. It shows its presence with the advent of so

many changes actively taking place and being embraced throughout every educational environment.

15. High-Quality Teachers

Another view and criticism of education puts the success or the blame on the teachers' low salary. Respect for the teaching profession should be shown monetarily then creating high-quality teachers. Finnish educator Pasi Sahlberg believes that educators should be paid more and for good reason. In Finland, receiving placement in a master's programme for teachers is harder than getting a law or medical degree.

16. Mobile Education

We move as a global society so that where ever we go, we carry our smart phones with us. Between conversations, we look down and tap away at whatever our minds fancy necessary or entertaining. So education, at least in the most cognizant facets, says it will be there too. It will walk with us on our journeys, our whims, our detours, and our desires. If we take our laptops around the world, education will walk with us according to mobile educational theories.

17. Vocational Training

Whether students are seeking a specialized higher education or a specific skill in order to further a career path, vocational training has become a more popular avenue and view of education in general. Often used by governments to train displaced workers, it can be a valuable source of study for anyone wanting to specialize in areas such as various types of medical technicians or even graphic arts.

18. Flexible Learning

With the personalized education, the value of flexible learning needs to be addressed. Flexible learning offers students choices, convenience, and a personal approach to learning any given subject. Because we are individuals, learning and teaching should entail some form of flexibility within the realm of standardization.

19. Religious Education

Religious education exists because communities and cultures give it an importance beyond knowledge. Linking them together with time and presence, students learn the nature of who their families and communities believe they are as well as how to deal with a changing world full of disappointments and violence.

20. Moral Education

Moral education involves many religions and many insights into the way humans interact with one another. How we manage our way through difficulties is just as important as how we maneuver through technological advances, at least to our ancestors and their views of right and wrong.

21. Character Education

Within the realm of creating morality, there's character standing right next to it. Character may even be a stronger element of education than morality. With students so quickly exposed to violence and sexism throughout the Internet, character development takes effort and awareness. At every level of education, students should be exposed to it and given a chance to exercise their understanding of it.

22. Global View

According to renowned educator Yong Zhao, high-stakes testing creates more problems than provides answers and it doesn't match success in the world today. Educating cre-

ative, entrepreneurial students should be the focus of education with what he calls world-class learners in his latest book. Zhoa believes there needs to be a paradigm shift in education that builds on students' strengths and gives them a format where their talents flourish and take shape instead of education shaping them.

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