

Utilising Audio Visual Aids to make learning Easy and Effective in Primary Education



Education

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ABSTRACT

At primary level vocabulary of child is not developed enough to understand the lectures given by teachers in classroom. At this level communication is generally one sided, child generally do not reply to teacher due to the fear and hesitation. Such type of situation is not favourable for learning, usually it inhibits the learning. At primary level teaching can be effective when it activates all the sensory organs of child. Using Audio Visual aids can be useful for making learning easy, effective and permanent. Role of teachers is very important in using technology because on one side if it is used appropriately, it can make the learning interesting, but on other side if not used properly then it can distract the mind of young children. In India teachers are not trained in a way to make use of Audio Visual aids. Paucity of funds and attitude of teachers, parents, school management and Government is making the problem wider. Only few private schools are trying the concept of AV aids in teaching but only limited students belonging to elite class can approach to them due to their heavy fee structure. Responsible member of society especially teachers should come forward to make the Audio Visual aids popular among students teachers and parents.

Introduction:

We all know that first few years in life of children are very important because the impressions, experiences and views developed at this cognitive stage remains with them life long. Maximum share of these experiences comes from the environment in which he lives, so there should be link between learning and the environment of student. Linking learning with the natural environment is more important at primary and pre primary level because curiosity of students is highest at this level. They want to explore the new world and surrounding by themselves. During this process they utilise their all sensory organs to collect experiences in the mind so that these pictures and experiences can be used in future for developing the knowledge.

Although concept of Audio Visual aids is accepted very late all over the world to enhance the learning of students but it existed in the world as early as evolution of man or even before it. Just think that the first individual who invented the fire was his sole experience but by watching and observing, the art to ignite the fire spread all over the world. Learning through seeing and observing was present when there were no words to express that.

Discussion:

Teachers in India are still following traditional teaching learning method which does not provide space to Audio Visual aids. Teachers are still teaching as instructor not as a mentor. They are not ready to use innovation nor they are trained enough to use the Audio Visual technology, for making their teaching more effective.

Obstacles in use of Audio Visual aids at schools:

• Teacher inability to use Audio Visual aids:

Inability of teachers to handle the audio Visual aids properly has emerged as biggest hurdle in utilising these aids to promote learning in the students at primary level. This problem is more prominent among the teachers working in rural areas and in Government schools. They lack the required dedication to learn new ideas of teaching. They are hesitant about bringing new experiments and innovations in their teaching and are far behind in making use of new technology.

• Perceptions of parents:

It's quite awful that parents have still not understood the concept of using teaching aids in classroom, they want their wards to be taught in the way they were taught twenty or thirty years before. Parents must understand that new researches and experiments are being carried out in the field to

enhance the learning.

• Lack of funds:

A lot of money is required in arranging and maintaining the costly Audio Visual aids. When many of the schools in India have failed to manage clean drinking water facility for the student, it is dream for them to buy these costly equipments.

• Attitude of Teachers and School management:

School management and teacher have complete focus on marks obtained in examination rather than learning. Due to this attitude they consider investment in Audio Visual aids as wastage of time and money.

• Inappropriate teacher training programmes:

Existing teacher training programmes are not framed properly to train them about how to use the teaching aids effectively in and outside classroom.

Impact of Audio Visual aids:

- Makes learning easy and permanent.
- Adds creativity.
- More involvement of students in classroom.
- Healthy relation with environment.

Selecting appropriate Audio Visual aid for classroom:

No doubt importance of AV aids to enhance learning of learner is globally accepted but its effectiveness depends totally on the ability of teacher. If the aids used are not appropriate in context to the subject it will not only waste time but it can also distract the minds of students. Different type of aids can be used at different time for teaching the same topic; it depends upon the requirement of students. During selection of aids teacher may follow the following simple steps to make teaching more beneficial to students and easy to teach -

(1) Studying the background:

Before selecting the right AV aid teacher should study the background of learners and their behaviours.

(2) Testing the intelligence level through observation:

Teacher should minutely observe the intelligence level of students. It will help them in using only those aids which are compatible with the intelligence level of students. If the aid used is of lower level or higher level then student may not take interest which will create an obstacle in learning.

(3) Recognising need of the student:

Before taking the decision to make use of any aid he or she

should try to recognise the need of students because learning is only effective when it is pupil centric.

(4)Analysing resources and self ability:

Teacher should make decision of using aid after analysing the resources available and whether he is able enough to use particular aid successfully and effectively.

(5) Feedback mechanism:

Teacher should try to get feedback response from students whether AV aid used have positive effect on their learning or not. Examining learning outcomes through overall evaluation must be applied to obtain feedback. It will help the teacher to modify and bring reform in using aid.

Points to be remember during use of Audio Visual aids:

Use of teaching aids is still not very common in Indian classrooms. In urban areas where schools are generating lot of money through heavy fees structure are putting lot of emphasis on use of AV aids in classrooms and teachers are trying to make full use of resource available. Before using any of Audio Video aid to make his or her teaching more effective following points must be kept in mind by teachers –

- Audio Visual aids must match the need and maturity level of student.
- Student must be able to relate the aid with the subject matter.
- It must be large enough to be seen by the student sitting in the last bench of classroom.
- Aids used must be able to attract the involvement and participation of student in classroom by awaking all the sensory organs of learner to encourage observation and discussion.
- Aids used must match the real life and natural environment.
- Aids must be used at appropriate time during teaching.
- Problem and possible area of discussion must be briefed to the student before introducing aid in class to make them attentive.

Requirement of innovations:

Teaching is not static, it keeps on changing because a number of elements are involved such as student, teacher, environ-

ment, teaching aid, methodology etc. Generally lesson plans and concepts are developed with keeping in mind a particular situation, but when teacher reaches the classroom he finds a totally different situation. At this place a teacher can only be successful only he remains innovative. Any lesson plan can only be effective only when teacher is ready to change himself according to situation. Beside this it may be possible that use of a particular type of teaching- learning aid can be useful for one student while waste for other. Now he or she has to manipulate himself and try to obtain something from aid for the student who was not comfortable with use of that aid. Now a days everybody having mobile in his pocket, which could be easily utilised as successful Audio Visual aid in classroom but teacher should remain technologically updated. Today latest Smartphone can easily utilise Internet as useful source of knowledge.

Limitations in using Audio Visual aids:

Beside advantages there are some limitations in using Audio Visual aids –

- One to one communication between teacher and student is obstructed.
- Overuse of Audio Visual aid can distract the minds of students from subject matter.
- Importance of teacher in classroom is reduced.
- Extra cost of using Audio visual aids will ultimately burdened on parents.
- Teacher has to invest more time in preparing their lectures.

Conclusion:

Outcome of above discussion suggest that appropriate use of AV aids are useful to child as well as teacher. Teachers training programmes must be designed in a way to promote the use of aids in classroom. Use of aids can only be made common through collective efforts of teachers, parents, school management and Government. It is responsibility of Government and management that they should provide enough funds especially to the schools in rural areas to buy teaching aids. Government should make a policy to evaluate and provide grades to the schools with reference to use of aids in classroom. Parents who are aware of importance of aids in teaching should try to convince other parents and teachers.

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