

TEACHER AS AN INNOVATOR

Asst. Prof Asha Thoke,
Ashoka College of Education,
Wadala, Nashik.

Nowadays goals of teacher training colleges are changed to cope up with changed society. Previously one of the major goal was to make the teachers to be able to teach but now it is to make capable, efficient teachers who will accept & adapt new challenges to enhance the quality of teaching. Now it is time to leave the traditional way of teaching rather it is time to bring flexibility & innovations in teaching. The role of teacher is also change now he is not the guide but he is facilitator, mentor who inspires & shows the way to teach students their own. Innovation and creativity is the essence of even teaching and learning including in the social sciences disciplines. Innovation and creativity brings about interest and motivation to learners of English, which eventually lead to learning. Our students are tired of the old school approach to learning a language – they want something practical, relevant and useful for their professional life. With computer being their flesh and blood, living in the era where they are allowed to question on things and they are given the opportunities to be responsible to their learning, innovation and creativity have to be incorporated in my teaching and learning and research and its literature has proven that they have a lot to offer for the betterment of the future generation of scholars.

Concept of Innovation:

The meaning of innovation is novelty; change. But any change in narrow sense doesn't mean innovation. Innovation is a broader concept. Innovation means adapting, accepting & implementing variety of ideas in practice continuously. Innovation means to leave traditional way of doing things & think out of the box which is never done before.

Definitions of Innovation:

“Innovation to describe it in simple terms in the introduction of new idea, a process or technique & its adaption for wide spread use to replace an existing practice or technique.”

UNESCO, 1971

“An innovation is a deliberate, novel, specific change which is thought to be more efficient in accomplishing the goals of a system.”

With the discussion of above definitions we can say that innovation is that change which someone can bring purposely to improve the practice. If we are talking about the education field then

it is must for the teacher to be an innovator & should use innovations in teaching.

Being a teacher you have to bring changes & new ideas in your teaching not only once but continuously. You can use innovative ideas by following steps.

Steps of implementing Innovation in teaching:

1. Identification of problem-While teaching in your class you must identify whether the students understand the content or not .If you found there are some students who are not getting the concepts which you are teaching them then you should ask them about their weak areas in understanding. **Ex-**If you teach English & you found that some students are not able to make proper sentences then their weak areas can be different like spelling mistake, lack of vocabulary development, unclear tenses.

2. Finding new ideas & strategies-Once you find out the weak area of student then you must do action plan by using new ideas & strategies for easy & better understanding.Ex.Now you have to do action plan to improve their ability to make proper sentence.

3. Testing & verification of new ideas & strategies-You have to use your action plan & should teach them according your plan for those students who have problems in making proper sentences. After finding these problems if teacher make development program for improving their mistakes of English then we can call it innovative idea & innovative teacher.

4. Evaluation new ideas & strategies-In this stage you have to do evaluation of your action plan whether it has been proved helpful to make proper sentences or not. For this you can ask them orally or in writing to evaluate.

5. Adaption & new ideas & strategies- If you come to know that your action plan / new idea helps students to improve proper sentences in English then you can implement this idea on large scale every time or suggest other teachers to use your idea.

Examples of how innovation and creativity have been incorporated in teaching and learning

Example 1: Effective Oral Communication Skill

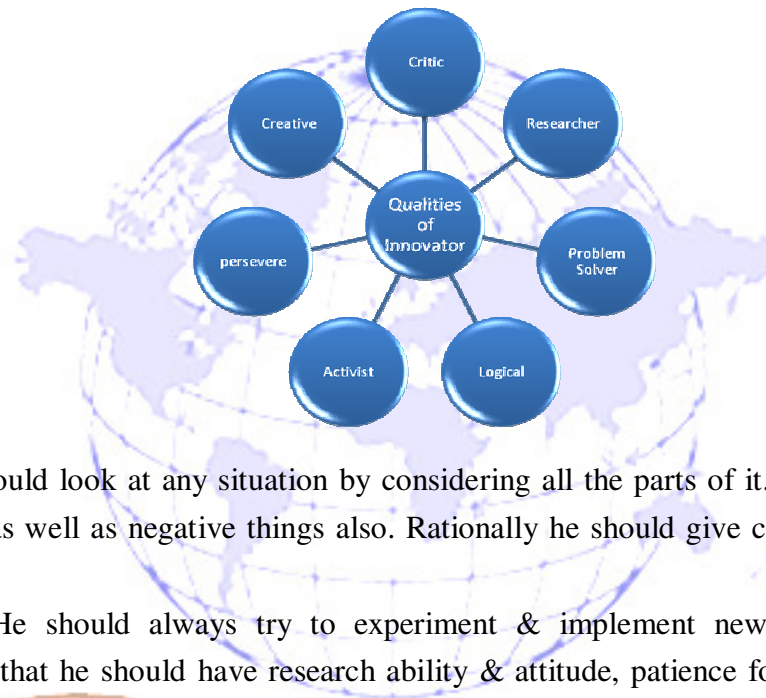
Topic 1: Interpersonal communication

Students can get input through two-way communication where information is gapped and students are required to discuss and share their findings before the actual information is given. Teacher can use of slides and images to enhance understanding of a topic. Videos of real-life occurrence of interpersonal behaviors can use to enhance understanding of the topic.

Students get the opportunity to practice the skills just learned based on real-life situations created for them before the real assessment of their ability to put into practice the skills is conducted.

In regular teaching many teachers use their creativity, their ideas for making teaching effective but we cannot call those teachers as an innovator, because only making changes in teaching once or twice is not enough. Teacher must do experiment of his innovative ideas every time to make his teaching different from others. Hence he should not stop by using new ideas only therefore he should do evaluation of implemented ideas & strategies if they really work or not.

Here are some qualities of an Innovative teacher.



1. **Critic**-He should look at any situation by considering all the parts of it. He should consider good things as well as negative things also. Rationally he should give comment on specific topic.
2. **Researcher**-He should always try to experiment & implement new ways, strategies in teaching, for that he should have research ability & attitude, patience for doing research in various areas of teaching.
3. **Problem solver**-He should develop the habit of looking positively to the problems. That every problem has a lot of solutions & wisely he should select the proper solution of that problem.
4. **Logical**-His thinking should be logical. Every time he should see the interrelation between the factors, problems. He should comment on anything by looking at evidences.
5. **Activist**-He should not be passive, his complete involvement is necessary in everything. He should engage in doing something new every time.
6. **Persevere**- He should continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no indication of success. He should not give up & should develop patience in him.
7. **Creative**- He should relate to or involve in the use of the imagination or original ideas to create something new in teaching.

If you really want to be an Innovator then you must develop above qualities in you, it will develop you professionally. So all the students, teachers & teacher educators accept the challenge of dynamic education system & be an Innovator in your teaching.