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CONTENTS

| S.No. | Title | Name of Authors | Page No. |
|-------|---|---|----------|
| 1. | A STUDY ON "SAFEGUARDING ORGANIZATION CULTURE IN THE CHANGING SCENARIO: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES" | Indu Nair HR Business Partner, Bayer Crop Science Dr. H. J. Bhasin Professor, Lala Lajpatrai Institute of Management of Mumbai | 1 |
| 2. | THE RELEVANCE OF GANDHIAN ECONOMICS DURING INDIA'S ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN | Dr. Koel Roy Choudhury Assistant Professor, Organization: S.I.E.S (Nerul) College of Arts, Science and Commerce | 11 |
| 3. | VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT TRENDS IN MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM SECTOR ENTERPRISES | Dr. (MRS.) MEENA KUMARI Assistant Professor, Smt. MMK College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai 400050, Maharashtra, India. | 16 |
| 4. | INTEGRATION OF ICT IN INDIAN EDUCATION | Dr. Anita Jacob B.M. Ruia Girls College, Gamdevi, Mumbai | 22 |
| 5. | PRICE INFLATION STUDY OF EXPORTED CRAB AND CRAB PRODUCTS BY INDIA USING PAASCHE PRICE INDEX | Dr. Devdatta Lad Department of Zoology, Wilson College, Chowpatty, Mumbai | 26 |
| 6. | SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH CLASSROOM | Dr. Anjali Verma Smt.M.M.K.College of Commerce & Economics,Mumbai | 30 |
| 7. | OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES : WAY AHEAD IN INDIA | Anusuya Sanjaykumar Yadav VES College of Arts, Science and Commerce | 34 |
| 8. | CRITICAL ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION - INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & CHALLENGES IN INDIA | Dr. Sumathi Gopal PhD, LLM, MCOM Assistant Professor, NCRD's Sterling College of Arts, Commerce & Science | 39 |
| 9. | A STUDY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES BY SELECTED INDIAN COMPANIES | Dr. Nagesh Senigarapu Assistant Professor D.T.S.S. College of Commerce, Malad, Mumbai- 97 | 44 |
| 10. | E-LEARNING: A ROAD AHEAD POST COVID-19 | Sriram Deshpande Assistant Professor, BMS, SVKM's Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai | 49 |

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CRITICAL ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION- INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & CHALLENGES IN INDIA

Dr. Sumathi Gopal*

ABSTRACT

The academic staff plays a very important role in building the future of India. Though the current scenario in India is rote, chalk & duster method, but post COVID 19 there will be paradigm shift in the teaching methodology. The study intends to identify the role of teaching & learning through the innovative practice & which can be used as a teaching methodology by the mentors or teachers. This study India has slight advantages though multi linguistic country since basic education in urban & semi urban areas English. Since University is governed by UGC & the governing body propagate English as medium of education the shift in teaching learning will bring a change in the education pattern. Irrespective of the age every teachers must plan, create the syllabus & use LMS in teaching & assessment process. Questionnaire was used by the researchers for the study. Random sampling was done by the researcher. The sample size of the study is 200 including parents, teachers, and students. The study reveal that whatever maybe the innovative practice it is very important how that practice is implemented to groom and nurture the talent and potential of the learners. Innovative teaching is developed through the creative designing of the curriculum & inculcating interest in the minds of the learners. Educational culture with creativity will enhance his interest of the learners. Self-motivation & introspection will develop professional ethics & improvement in the performance of the learners in higher education.

Keywords: Learners, Teachers, Innovation, higher education

Introduction

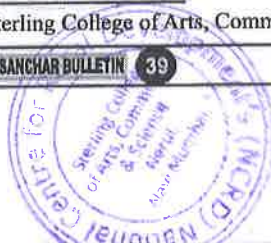
The academic staff plays a very important role in building the future of India. Though the current scenario in India is rote, chalk & duster method, but post COVID 19 there will be paradigm shift in the teaching methodology. The study intends to identify the role of teaching & learning through the innovative practice & which can be used as a teaching methodology by the mentors or teachers. This study is due to changes being brought in the educational industry due to excellence & new tools & methodology being used. India has slight advantages though multi linguistic country but basic education in urban & semi urban areas English is the primary language used. Since

University is governed by UGC & the governing body propagate English as medium of education the shift in teaching learning will bring a change in the education pattern. Irrespective of the age of mentors every teachers must plan, create the syllabus & use LMS in teaching & assessment process. The overall scenario of the Indian education is not as competitive to the western education & culture. Hence we require massive revamping in the educational sector & bring to the Global level so as to meet the challenges & our learners can confidently face any given situation at any point of time during their life time.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the innovative abilities of the teachers to teach in higher classes

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2. To identify the creative approach towards teaching & methodology
3. To identify the approach & interest in holistic development of the learners
4. To analyze the contribution of the teaching in social life & society

Research Methodology

Primary Data

Questionnaire was drafted & through the survey the following analysis was drawn. The sample size of the study is 200 respondents who are engaged in teaching under graduation & post-graduation classes & the parents.

Secondary Data

Information were collected from journals, magazines, newspaper articles

Scope & Need for the Study

Currently in India the methodology used is classroom, chalk & duster, personal coaching & Rote method. Due to change in the scenario the education pattern in India need to focus on online teaching & using available technology irrespective the learners are residing in urban or rural areas. Government support & involvement in updation of infrastructure must be top most priority

Data Collection & Analysis

Q.1. what type of innovation carried out & practiced by teachers in higher education?

Feedback: The method should involve motivational, interaction & inspirational for the learners in the classroom. Rote learning must be eliminated & skill based learning must be encouraged. Similarly virtual learning curriculum must be developed. Curriculum must be easy & learners can learn with ease & interest. Similarly collaborative learning can be developed involving parents, industrialist & Academician. While developing curriculum fast learners, average intelligence students & slow learners should be kept in mind & shall be prepared. The practice should be such a way that learners should be motivated to attend the class with willingness.

Q.2 what type of measures should the teachers adopt throughout their career?

Feedback: The Teachers must have to adopt good communication skill with the colleagues, students, parents, excellent interpersonal relationship, fair assessment & evaluation process in the system development. Teachers should have the intention to learn new methodology & create interest to them first & then share with their students. Teachers themselves must always treat them as students. Then throughout their career they must upgrade their knowledge.

Q.3 what changes is required in our system to develop good friendly system?

Feedback: Rote learning & mark race should be eliminated. Allow the students to understand the concepts clearly & concentrate more on the skill based education. More practical oriented which will inculcate the urge to study well. Allow the students to choose that stream in which they have interest rather than parents or the society becoming judgmental. The marking system must be changed & it should not be evaluated on the basis of exams but must be on the basis of class participation, skill based interaction with the peer group, creativity of the students & last but not the least extracurricular activities.

Q.4 should all streams must be treated with equal importance?

Feedback: Students must be given career counseling at a regular interval. It should be incorporated in their timetable as a regular lecture. All the streams make an impact in the diverse economy. Teachers should train the students that no shortcut to the hard work.

Q.5 what is the opinion regarding the tuition classes as extra coaching to the classroom coaching?

Feedback: The opinion of the students is that coaching classes are adopting more intensive teaching than the regular classroom teaching. Hence they are motivated to go to the private tuitions. So the opinion of the teachers is that probably now virtual

classroom & interactive session may reduce the concept of tuition after the lockdown is lifted. If the management is providing all the support for the virtual classroom then the students will not aspire to join the coaching classes & parents with less earning will be able to educate their children with ease & less expenses.

Q.6 what should be the future Academic plan & how would the system strive to improve the performance?

Feedback: Training, workshop, internship, skill based, vocational courses are the best practice for the future academic plan so that when a student steps out of the school he learns to earn his living in an honest way. Subjects taught should be more practical oriented rather theoretical based. Since they are in the early stage of the adulthood value education can be a part of their regular learning which will bring about a change in the educational system in India.

Recommendations for improving quality education in India

- 1. Learning Centric Society-** Since the society is planning a shift from classroom teaching to online teaching there should be shift in the focus. Secondly, there will be a sharp focus from the experts, interface between industry & academicians. Measures should be to diversify, adjust & train people to conduct more research based projects. Students & teachers should participate jointly in live research projects.
- 2. Industry & Academia partnership-** Every higher institution must have linkages with industry partnership & the curricula must include soft skill & certification course for employability. As soon as the students complete their education they should be accepted in the industry & must seek employment. More short term certified course should be included in the day to day time table & should be motivated to be a part of the courses. They should be counseled at a periodical interval & to enable them to

realize that their employability opportunity will increase.

- 3. Incentives to teachers & students:** The teachers & student must be motivated & some incentives must be provided... The efforts should be to build on the existing strengths in light of new understanding of the research-innovation-growth linkage.
- 4. Student centric education & Technology based curriculum-** It should be two ways learning & teaching method. Learners should be willing to learn & train him or her worth the employability & teachers must be willing to change the methodology. Many senior teachers who are on the verge of retirement may be reluctant to the changes but if they are open to the changes the teachers will be able to bring remarkable change in the teaching methodology. The teachers must be willing to use Google classroom or smart board, various online quizzes Creative Networking for uploading their videos, or images, etc. Similarly the students should willingly & happily without any force to update their technical knowledge.
- 5. To provide need based Job based education-** All round development of personality is the purpose of education. Combination of regular course with vocational guidance will increase he employability opportunity. When the campus placement will be conducted majority of the learner will be absorbed by the industry. The concept of learn & earn equation will be really a welcome dynamic changes in the educational sector.
- 6. Inculcate the habit of problem solving abilities-** Prime responsibility of the educational system should be to develop the abilities of the learners to solve their problems rather than getting into depression & committing suicide. To achieve this level

of confidence moral values must be developed from the beginning of the education.

7. **Knowledge centric Education-** The main ingredient of the knowledge centric education is access, equity, accountability and quality though have been good old cardinal elements in the development of higher education must be kept in mind while planning the curriculum in higher education.
8. **Education should be multi dimension-** The learners should be able to analyze the world in different perspective rather than just living as it comes. Secondly the motive should be to use the education for the upliftment of the society. Thirdly to focus on the task & complete on time.
9. **Action plan for improving for the quality & concentrating on the development of the same-** Academic audit & Administrative audit must be conducted through the external agencies & also implement the action that are suggested by the auditor for the improvement in the quality of the institution. Also for the improvement in the quality the institution or the university can take initiative in accrediting with ISO or NAB or NAM, etc.
10. **Promote Research based education-** The aptitude for research based curriculum should be developed from undergraduate level itself & stipends to research fellowship must be honoured to the research scholar. This will motivate more researchers to come forward & conduct research based education, even the mentor should be paid research allowance for training the research learners.

Conclusions

The quality of education lies on the methodology of learning, curriculum & implementation of the same. So the revamping is possible only when all the stakeholders take necessary initiative in bringing the

quality education. The support from the Government or local authorities is very much required especially to improve the infrastructure & provide internet facilities to the rural masses at a very subsidized rate. Even now during COVID if we have to conduct online examination we do not have the required infrastructure due to which there is delay in conducting physical examination. At the same time the Government or an Industry partnership will enable to increase the source of funding & infrastructure, training & personality development program can be conducted & try to resolve the situation & generate more a practical base education & enlighten the employability opportunity to the Indian learners. Use of IT will increase tremendously and there will be more emphasis in areas like digital Marketing, Online Education etc. Online Education will see a sharp increase with a large number of providers. There will be a greater push in the usage of disruptive technologies like AI, Robotics etc. Online interviews, evaluation, new skills such as excellent verbal & written communication must be trained to both learners & mentors. Reskilling of the existing employee be developed. Adaptability to new technology such as work from home, cloud collaboration cloud, new Apps, such as adopting Google classroom, H5P, Creative Networking site, Flash card, numeric game, interactive video, Canvas, etc. Whatever may be the age of the teacher they should make an effort to learn & use in their teaching to attract the attention of the learners. It will develop skills that will drive their employability, productivity, health, and well-being in the decades to come, and ensure the overall progress of India

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