

# Methods of Teaching

**Method.....Latin word “MODE” means Way**

Teaching is a purposeful process that has a close relationship with learning. It is a planned activity in which teacher, learner and other variables like educational aids are combined together to attain some predetermined goals and objectives. Teaching can be both formal and informal.

- Informal teaching is carried out within a family or in a community, during the initial years of life for example homeschooling.
- Formal teaching is usually carried out by paid professionals called teachers or faculty.

*'If a child can't learn the way we teach, we should teach the way they learn' -Ignacio Estrada*

Once the instructional objectives are stated, the next step is to select an appropriate instructional method to achieve them. The teacher has various methods at his disposal to select from.

**There are different types of teaching techniques:**

1. **Teacher centered**
2. **Learner centered**
3. **Content focussed**
4. **Interactive/ participative**

## **1. Teacher Centered Teaching methods:**

- Teacher takes the centre stage
- Teacher is looked upon by the learners as an expert
- Learners are passive recipients of knowledge.
- Example : Lecture method, video presentation, demonstration, team teaching.

**Teacher centered Teaching Focus on:**

- ❖ Telling
- ❖ Memorization
- ❖ Recalling information
- ❖ Passive recipient of knowledge
- ❖ Restricted to only asking and answering questions
- ❖ Teaching environment is formalized
- ❖ Teacher occupies a central position.

**(a) Lecture Method (Chalk & talk)**

- Lecture method is the most conventional and dominating teaching method and is preferred by many teachers.
- In this method, a teacher attempts to explain facts, principles or relationships to help learners understand. Here, this teacher is an active participant, the students are assumed to be passive listeners.
- Usually, the students do not converse with the teacher during the lecture. That way, it is one-way communication. The teacher talks more or less continuously to the class.
- The class listens, writes and notes facts and ideas for remembering and to think them over later. It can be made a two-way communication if the teacher allows students to ask a few questions to clarify a point but no discussion is usually held.

**Basic Features**

1. It is formal and narrative in nature.
2. It presents a series of events or facts.
3. It explores problems.

**Advantages**

1. It is economical and a single teacher can teach a large number of students at a time which is not possible by using other methods. It saves much time and the syllabus can be very easily covered within a limited time.
2. It simplifies the task of the teacher.
3. It is useful for imparting factual information and drawing attention to its important points.

4. During lecture, interruptions and distractions are usually avoided.

### **Limitations**

1. It provides very little opportunity for student activity; the teacher takes special care to make the class interesting.
2. It usually does not provide opportunities for learners to solve problems.
3. It offers limited opportunities for checking learning progress, whether the students are attending and understanding all that the teacher is explaining.
4. The interests, abilities and intelligence of students are not taken care of.
5. It does not allow the individual pace of learning.

### **Suggestions to make the lecture method more effective:**

1. The teacher should avoid the tendency to read from lecture notes word by word.
2. The teacher should maintain eye to eye contact with the students so as to seek their continuous attention.
3. Good lesson planning with introductory remarks, main headings, sub-headings, figures and important data and concluding remarks. The students should get the opportunity to make notes.
4. Use of simple language so that students are able to understand. The main points should be repeated in an alternative language.
5. Make effective use of audio-visual instructional facilities to improve communication of ideas.
6. Make appropriate use of illustration and examples.
7. Provide short breaks during the lecture period for asking thought-provoking, stimulating and problem-solving questions. Leave time in the end for clarifications and questions.

### **(b) Team Teaching Method**

- **Developed in 1954 at Harvard University, USA.**
- **Also known as Collaborative or Co-teaching.**
- It is an innovative approach in teaching groups of large size in which two or more teachers are involved in planning, executing and evaluating the learning experiences for a group of students.

### **Advantages**

1. Sharing the best faculty with more students.
2. Optimum use of multiple teaching devices and techniques.
3. Improvement of teaching quality



### **Limitations**

1. Finding teachers to guide the learners effectively is a difficult task.
2. More teachers are required for this method.
3. Not useful for teaching all subjects.
4. Requires much time for planning and scheduling.

### **(c) TV or Video Presentation**

- Video or television presentation is an improved presentation of radio or audio presentation and it can virtually bring the whole world inside the classroom.
- Screening of video presentation is followed by a discussion or task.

### **Advantages**



1. Many experts and important personalities are brought to the classroom through video presentations.
2. Specifically useful for adult learners.
3. Illustrated lectures and demonstrations can be supplemented by other teaching instructional facilities, such as slides, models, specimens, etc.
4. Easily accessible for learners in remote areas.
5. Specifically useful for subjects, such as astronomy, geography etc.

#### **Limitations**

1. Less possibility for two-way communication.
2. There may be difficulty in adjusting to complicated schedules to telecast.

#### **(d) Lecture cum Demonstration method**

- Demonstration is to show. Based on learning from concrete to abstract.
- Demonstration is presentation of a prearranged series of events or equipment to a group of students for their observation.

#### **Advantages**

1. Helping in explaining materials, objects and ideas.
2. Effective in explaining abstract concepts.
3. Assists in achieving objectives of cognitive, psychomotor and affective domain.

#### **Limitations:**

1. Provides little opportunity for student activity
2. Usually students don't get the opportunity to solve problems.
3. The interests, skills, abilities and intelligence of students take a backseat.
4. Individual pace of learning is not possible.