

Emerging Effective Trends in Social Science Teaching

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ABSTRACT:

Learners across the sphere find Social Studies inundated with overwhelming content, where they are anticipated to regurgitate the facts & figures to validate their understanding of the subject. This leads to Unreceptive learning in spite of studies signifying engaged learning. Hence, various methods when appropriately employed, the efficacy of teaching learning has witnessed upsurge in performance. From the results it has been concluded that the traditional methods of Social Science teaching do not yield fervent participation of the child in the teaching learning process. This when replaced with collection of various advanced methodologies in the hands of a able teacher, assisted in dynamic learning in children & also helped to train them for social responsibility which is one of the main objectives of teaching social science apart from ingraining of Social consciousness amongst the students for realizing higher goals.

IMPRESSION

Globalisation dictates education, which has merely become the marketing tool accentuating only to 'earn well' rather than 'learn well' for a peaceful coexistence. A skilled workforce is being sent into the society within very short span of time without acquiring competence & societal norms. The requisite norms, dealing the social aspects, socio-cultural diversity in the learner's life right from the childhood through sustained conscious efforts from all the stake holders of the society.

Social Science is a field which deals with human behaviour, relationships, resources and institutions, it is being incorporated in the school curriculum through a combination of subjects like History, Geography, Economics and Political Science from the elementary &

middle schooling onwards. But pupils find this subject droning, tedious, dull and waste of time. It is unpopular among the school children being voluminous & lack lustre. An average student finds it difficult to comprehend the language. Students resort to rote learning/memorizing without grasping the subject. The result is that they cannot retain and reproduce the answers during tests/exams and score poor marks. The task of making the subject interesting through innovative methods of teaching learning seems daunting but lies mostly on the shoulders of the Educators.

INTRODUCTION:

Social Science is the branch that deals with study of Social life of person through practice, it includes all the branches of science to develop an insight into human relationships, social values & attitudes & also aid them to understand other cultures alongside our rich cultural heritage for harmonious existence within the human society.”^[1]

The nature of Social science is often described as dual in nature and its scope ranges from study of human relations within the society to internationalism leading to Universal citizenship.^[2]

OBJECTIVES:

It is vital to state that the aims & objectives of teaching social science are to be aligned to the great standards of education, it allows the educator to choose eloquent content, instructional practices & methods as they play significant role in the classroom teaching learning and hence they are in consonance with broader goals of education – B.V. Kumari^[3]

In the words of V. Michaels “Social Studies deals with man and his interaction with social & physical environment, they deal with relationship, the central function of the social science is identical with central purpose of education – the development of democratic citizenship”^[4]

The Secondary Education commission in India (1964-66)^[5], outlined, “The aim of teaching social studies is to assist pupils to amass a knowledge of their environment, an understanding of human relationships and certain attitudes and values which are vital for intelligent participation and contribution within the matters of the community, the state and therefore the world. Hence a competent programme for imparting excellent citizenship & emotional integration resulting in universal brotherhood.”^[6]

AIMS OF TEACHING SOCIAL SCIENCE:

- To provide the knowledge of the child's socio-cultural environment
- To develop social values, attitudes & aptitudes
- To develop the personality of the child with the sensation of cooperation, social thinking & universal brotherhood ^[7]

ROLE OF EDUCATORS IN MAKING SOCIAL SCIENCE INTERESTING:

A Social science teacher needs

1. To be passionate about the subject in order to infuse enthusiasm and interest for the subject.
2. To have a strong grip on the content and methodology and justify why social science is an essential part of the school curriculum.
3. To engage and motivate the students so that they reflect, interact and express their views, have debates and discussions. This would develop their critical, analytical and problem-solving skills.
4. To develop various ways and means and adopt different technologies so that students take keen interest in this subject.
5. To make students understand the scope of social science and the career options available if they pursue Social Sciences.
6. The technology used should be tailor made according to the needs and requirement of the students. So, to engage the students in this subject, teachers need to come down to the level of the students. If required, teachers can be bilingual while teaching.
7. Students can be asked to make short notes in their notebooks/books by writing the "KEY WORDS". This makes learning very easy.
8. All long answers should be written in points.
9. Use various Apps & websites to make social science teaching learning more invigorating. Eg: Britannica Kids App, Quizlet, Flipgrid, Kahoot are various tools/Apps that can be used effectively used in teaching learning social science.
10. Use comprehensive Videos, PPTs and Live classes in S.sc for effective classroom transactions.

METHODOLOGIES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE TEACHING:

No single method fits best for all the Teaching learning situations. Hence amalgamation of varied methods when done by the teacher with discretion proves to be effective.[8]

Enthusiasm in integrating the topic with real world situations is paramount in harmonious blending. It also meaningfully integrates with the true nature of social life

The secondary education Commission emphasized the necessity for the proper methods of teaching. “It is a well- known fact that even the unpretentious curriculum & the most perfect syllabus remain pale unless quickened into life by the precise methods of teaching & the right kind of teachers. sometimes even the unimaginative & unsatisfactory syllabus are often made interesting & significant by the talented teacher who doesn't focus his/her mind on the subject matter to be taught or the knowledge to be imparted but on his students – their interests & aptitudes, their reactions & response. Such teachers judge the success not within the amount of content covered but by the understanding, the appreciation and therefore the efficiency achieved by the scholars.” [9]

In the words of Herbard Ward & Frank Roscoe, “While it's true that good method isn't merely a set of artifices or mechanical devices where every teacher must devise his own method, it's important to recollect that good method may result from only from constant observations from certain broad principles like orderly procedure in teaching learning, an choice of content, distribution of content to upkeep the interest of pupils”.[10]

Good teaching learning methods which are psychologically & socially sound will raise the entire quality of child's life whereas poor methods debase it.[11]

Following Revolutionary methods when applied strategically by the teacher will yield desired result

- LEARNING BY DOING:

Demonstration of physical models like Globe, 3dimensional structures alongside virtual reality discussions with examples when utilized in the class to introduce the concepts in a lively way. Case study of lesson can be taken up with a comparative analysis on enlightened nationalism. For example, for teaching enlightened nationalism, analogies of Gandhi & Lewis XIV can be given and to illustrate concept of extreme Nationalism examples of Hitler and Mussolini can be used. Relevant illustration apt for the present scenario in History, Civics

and Economics should be supported by the facts. Kindle the creativity among the scholars by engaging them in preparation of charts, collage, models to form the category quite interesting. It results in student - teacher interaction and student to student learning. Scope should tend to do the projects as group activities within the school itself to avoid parental spoon feeding of the project at home. As a part of social science, Environmental Education plays an important role in shaping the youngsters as a responsible citizen of tomorrow. Nature album, preparing their own year calendar, with birth anniversaries of freedom fighters. Sample of Mock parliament, online quiz competition etc. will make the subject more attractive. Concept of “Reuse Reduce and Recycle” in geography spirit of conservation of natural resources, respect for all things of environment are core values of the topic. “Fun to try to activities” given within the textbooks will help children to pursue these activities with interest rather than feeling of burden and tedium

- **LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE:** Teaching through creative drama may be a viable method for science teaching during a student centered way. Creative Dramatics may be a compendium of Activities, Simulations, Mockups, Games, Oral performances, Percussion Concerts, Videos, Collaborative videos and Presentations. the tactic makes use of these techniques for enthusiastic transaction of contents.

- **LEARNING BY SELF EDUCATION:** Through active interactions with the coevals – organized conference, Project method, survey, Case study & discussion makes learning more concrete.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

-There is a need to align instructional objectives to learning outcomes and measure these against the Bloom’s taxonomy. The teacher always has been at the helm of the learning experience and ensures that learners reach the zone of proximal development. Practices, like understanding and reinforcement of concepts to achieve higher levels of learning are path breaking. They discourage rote memorization and encourage optimal use of upper order thinking skills. These instil critical faculties and a broader outlook and enable learners to become good citizens, independent thinkers and progressive citizenry contributing to nation building.

- In view of this it's suggested that teacher should make use of a mix of curriculum transaction strategies namely-instructional methods, teaching aids, evaluation techniques,

surveys, projects, field trips etc in order to develop and sustain the interest of scholars in the subject. Other such Innovative methods when utilized wisely in the class will yield remarkable results, the list of such methods is as follows:

(a) **Active Visualization:** It is important for the students to visualize the events for which the teaching methods need to evolve around story telling methodology duly supported with practical examples. Once the children start relating with it, it generates interest. This interest should be further sustained through a series of related activities.

(b) **Effective Peer Teaching Learning:** Peer teaching method encourages children to prepare the topics and as it is said that teaching is the best way to learn.

(c) **Positive Reinforcement:** Encouragement from the teacher plays a vital role in ensuring that the students do not lose interest.

(d) **Teaching Learning Materials:** Audio visual methods like videos related to the topic create interest among students. Annotated maps with chronological sequence of events also play a very important role as well. It's always better to watch the videos along with students and to explain the topics as the video progresses.

(e) **Project based learning (PBL):** Live Projects which generates immense enthusiasm when given to children related to the concepts being taught in the class will sky rocket the learning levels of children

(f) **Activity Based Learning (ABL):** Role plays, acting out historical events also create a lot of interest amongst the students

(g) **Correlation:** Relating content to relevant current events of their daily lives.

(h) **Visit to Historical monuments and places**

(i) **Structured Note Making:** Making useful notes plays a vital role in making the subject easy and interesting.

(f) **Continuous Monitoring:** Continuously Monitoring the participation of students in the discussions in case of unwilling & non- participating learners will prove to be effective

(g) **Guidance & Counselling:** Regular checking of all links, resources, modules and activities should be done to ensure smooth functioning of the teaching as online content can change which can lead to disengagement during synchronous teaching learning process.

(h) **Dynamic Engagement:** Students when given adequate opportunities to learn through engagement will never require to memorize the content, further this will aide them to grade their own assignments and hold student led discussions

(i) **Compare and Contrast:** This method will aid the students to distinguish the similarities and differences between the chronological eras, concepts with greater ease resulting in concrete learning.

CONCLUSION:

- Activity based approach is extremely effective than the normal approach of teaching social science, as it increases interest and enhances learning. Experiential learning will assist the learners to gain basic ideas, know the management, cover learning gaps learn from their peer during group work which is impossible in traditional approach.

It is highlighted that switching to innovative learner – centred and lively classrooms through active learning practices. Efforts has been made to spot effectiveness of involving students within the learning process, with special emphasis on Presentations, group discussions, Interviews and data collection from secondary source. The sample consists of students of class – 9 and their performance in class 10, coming from diverse multi-lingual and multi-cultural backgrounds, observed and assessed on parameters like gathering information, participation in classroom discussion prior and through execution of the task and on basis of their presentation skills/ response in the Term end examinations.

- The results of the Previous term (class 9) were compared with the Present term (class – 10) of same students who underwent the above-mentioned teaching experiences. The results revealed that the scholars who have undergone remedial teaching using innovative techniques and methods showed significant development within the topics concerned. Thus, the study proved as an efficient one.

- Contrary to the general belief, Social Studies as a subject is quite interesting if we generate interest amongst students. The above measures when taken with the fervour and enthusiasm

along with. Initiatives and progressive approach of the educators make teaching/learning of social science more effective, meaningful. It has also yielded better results. No matter how well a lesson is planned, there's no single method that will yield the desired result, for as true teaching is nothing but arousing and directing the curiosity of learners.

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