



Innovative Methods of Teaching

Maria-Eleni Sachou

Kantas School – Vrilissia (Greece)

mar-sach@hotmail.com

Abstract

Basically teaching must include two major components sending and receiving information. Ultimately, a teacher tries his best to impart knowledge as the way he understood it. The use of innovative methods in educational institutions has the potential not only to improve education, but also to empower people, strengthen governance and galvanize the effort to achieve the human development goal for the country. The purpose of this paper is to suggest useful innovative teaching methods that can be attempted in imparting knowledge to the students.

1. Introduction

The purpose of education is not just making a student literate, but adds rationale thinking, knowledgeability and self sufficiency. That's why teaching nowadays must include innovative communication methods that impart knowledge. Some innovative methods of teaching could be multimedia, the combination of various digital media types such as text, images, audio and video, into an integrated multi-sensory interactive application or presentation to convey information to an audience [1].

2. The importance of education

Education is an engine for the growth and progress of any society. It not only imparts knowledge, skills and inculcates values, but is also responsible for building human capital which breeds, drives and sets technological innovation and economic growth. Nowadays information and knowledge stand out as very important and critical input for growth and survival. Rather than looking at education simply as a means of achieving social upliftment, the society must view education also as an engine of advancement in an information era propelled by its wheels of knowledge and research leading to development.

Currently, many institutions are moving towards problem-based learning as a solution to producing graduates who are creative and can think critically, analytically, and solve problems. Since knowledge is no longer an end but a means to creating better problem solvers and encourage lifelong learning. Problem-based learning is becoming increasingly popular in educational institutions as a tool to address the inadequacies of traditional teaching. Since these traditional approaches do not encourage students to question what they have learnt or to associate with previously acquired knowledge, problem-based learning is seen as an innovative measure to encourage students to learn how to learn via real-life problems [2].

3. Innovative methods of teaching

There are many *multimedia* technologies that are available for developers to create these innovative and interactive multimedia applications, such as *Adobe Photoshop and Premier, SoundForge and 3D Studio Max* etc. [3]. The teacher uses multimedia to modify the contents of the material. It helps him/her to represent in a more meaningful way, using different media elements. These media elements can be converted into digital form, modified and customized for the final presentation. By incorporating digital media elements into the project, the students are able to learn better since they use multiple sensory modalities, which would make them more motivated to pay more attention to the information presented and retain the information better [4].

The new means of the technology change the classroom experience. For example, the room is wired with cameras for photographing whiteboards, so students can receive the images as digital files. In addition, PCs, compact computers that allow the teacher to write notes directly on the screen with a special pen, replace the archaic projector. Technology allows professors to make notes on charts and spreadsheets and send them directly to their students' PCs [5].



Another innovative teaching method is *mind maps*, which is a simple technique for drawing information in diagrams, instead of writing it in sentences. The diagrams always take the same basic format of a tree, with a single starting point in the middle that branches out and divides again and again. The tree is made up of words or short sentences connected by lines. The lines that connect the words are part of the meaning [6].

Mind maps are also very quick to review, as it is easy to refresh information in student's mind just by glancing once. Mind maps can also be effective mnemonics and remembering their shape and structure can provide the cues necessary to remember the information within it. They engage much more of the brain in the process of assimilating and connecting facts than conventional notes. The key notion behind mind mapping is that student learns and remembers more effectively by using the full range of visual and sensory tools at his/her disposal. Pictures, music, color, even touch and smell play a part in the learning armory, since it helps to recollect information for long time [7].

The *sense of humor* can also be an innovative teaching method. Students always like lively and delightful personalities and that's natural. If one teaches whatever he/she wants in a humorous, delightful and entertaining way, he/she can easily achieve target. There are many devices with the help of which one can teach effectively. This method involves learning through delight. E.g. the games like word-antakshari, Spin-a-yarn, Role-Playings etc. are very effective in developing their linguistic competence. If this method is used properly, language-learning becomes more interesting and easy [8].

Humor strengthens the relationship between student and teacher, reduces stress, makes a course more interesting and if relevant to the subject, may even enhance recall of the material. Humor has the ability to relax people, reduce stress and tension, and thereby create an atmosphere conducive for learning and communication. Numerous studies in the field of advertising have noted that humor is the most effective tool for enhancing recall of advertisements. It is easy to create a humor in the classroom by reading books of jokes and to listen to professional comics. The students should be encouraged to take notes, especially to learn about the professionals' use of such techniques as exaggeration, pauses, and timing. Observe reality and exaggerate it - much humor lies in observations about real life and truthful situations. In conclusion, humor not only plays an important role in the healing process but is also very important in education [9].

Another innovative teaching method is the *mnemonics words*. Here the teacher is not supposed to talk on a particular concept for a quite long time. But to make it clear to the students he/she can just go on saying mnemonics or its associated meaning in words. Here he/she goes on saying only words instead of sentence, and once they come to a basic understanding of the meaning of a particular concept, then the teacher will explain in sentences. For example, in teaching language courses this technique can be used as an effective medium by the teacher to develop word power.

Moreover, *role playing* and *scenario analysis* is another innovative method of teaching. Science and engineering courses have practical but in support of those practical if students are given a scenario and other options to solve a particular issue, then the students are exposed to decision making in a given environment [10]. One main advantage of role-playing is the possibility to encourage evaluation and synthesis of the subject matter, while practically taking students out of their chairs and allow them to learn it by doing. In addition it is the role of the teacher to explain for the students that it is not only fun, but an opportunity to participate in the learning process. In legal education it might be a court exercise, building up a negotiation strategy and observing a conclusion of a contract, or an alternative dispute resolution role-playing. They are appropriate to develop the argumentation and text analyzing and research skills of the students that they would need definitely in their professional life. Furthermore, students can achieve deep-learning that is prerequisite of long-term knowledge [11, 12].

4. Conclusion

From the above, we can make out that the Information and Communication Technology has made many innovations in the field of teaching and also made a drastic change from the old paradigm of teaching and learning. In the new example of learning, the role of student is more important than teachers. The concepts of paperless and penless classroom are emerging as an alternative to the old teaching learning method. Nowadays there is democratization of knowledge and the role of the teacher is changing to that of facilitator. We need to have interactive teaching and this changing role of education is inevitable with the introduction of multimedia technology and the spawning of a



technologically-savvy generation of youths. The analysis reveals some of the suggestions that the teaching community can practice in the classrooms. Ultimately the teaching people are satisfied when they could reach the students community with his their ideas and views. So, teaching depends upon successful mode of communication and Innovation, though we mean the changes that we propose to be included in our medium of communication or even inclusion of some other elements in communicating information.

References

- [1] Damodharan, V. S. & Rengarajan, V., *Innovative Methods of Teaching*. Retrieved from: http://math.arizona.edu/~atp-mena/conference/proceedings/Damodharan_Innovative_Methods.pdf (12/12/2012)
- [2] Brigham, D. Converting student support services to online delivery. *International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning*, 1. Retrieved from: <http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/> (16/3/2013).
- [3] Neo, M. & Neo, K.T.K. (2001). Innovative teaching: Using multimedia in a problem-based learning environment, *Educational Technology & Society* 4 (4).
- [4] Damodharan & Rengarajan, ó.π.
- [5] Турчина Тамара Василівна, *Innovative method of teaching- new way of education development*, УДК 378(477):316.4.063.3. Retrieved from: http://dSPACE.uabs.edu.ua/bitstream/123456789/8426/2/Turcnina_T._Innovative_methods_of_teaching%5B1%5D.pdf (16/3/2013).
- [6] *What is mapping?* Retrieved from: <http://www.mindomo.com/help/mind-mapping.htm> (20/12/2012).
- [7] Damodharan & Rengarajan, ó.π.
- [8] Dodewar, A.G., *Innovative Techniques in English Language Teaching for Enhancing Learner's Ability*. Confluence 24 -25 February 2012. Retrieved from: www.tgp cet.com (11/12/2012).
- [9] Damodharan & Rengarajan, ó.π.
- [10] Damodharan & Rengarajan, ó.π.
- [11] Denbo, Susan M. (2005). Contracts in the Classroom-Providing Undergraduate Business Students with Important "Real Life" Skills. *The Journal of Legal Studies Education*, 22(2), 149-167.
- [12] APSA Teaching and Learning Conference Track Summaries (2006), from: <http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/Summaries.pdf> (20/3/2011).