



REFLECTIVE TEACHING: AS AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH IN TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Various innovative ideas have been initiated from time to time to bring professional development in teachers. Reflective teaching is such an innovative idea among them introduced in 21st century. The present study tries to elucidate the concept of the terminologies like reflective teaching, teachers' professional development and the innovation in teacher education. Difference between professional and professionalism is also elucidated here. And most of all it mainly focuses on the role of reflective teaching in teachers' professional development and how the teachers become professionally developed through the reflective practice.

KEYWORDS: *Reflective Teaching, Teachers' Professional Development, Innovation in Teacher Education and professional*

INTRODUCTION

Teaching is a novel profession among all the professions in the world. Teacher is like a devotee who can devote all his/her life through teaching the students. It is also an honorable profession in the society. Each and every person in the society respect teacher, as teacher is the backbone of the society. Teachers make the students to a human capital. From ancient to modern period of time teachers had been serving the society unconditionally. The situation under which the students are taught may be the same but the teaching strategies of the teacher have been changed gradually. In previous time teacher or guru teach their learner or shishya according to their own teaching method. Then the whole education system was teacher centered. It means that teacher headed the whole education system along with curriculum, teaching strategy, evaluation process, class management and student's behavior etc.. Nobody can restrain them in their activities. They were all in all in education system. But according to the changing perspective of the society, the approaches of education have been changed and modified gradually. Education system has got rid of the boundary of gurukul. Now, the only position of the teacher is not the guru rather he is more than that and the students are not the shishya. Teachers are, in recent time, regarded as the friend philosopher and guide in the lives of the students. There is not a strict boundary in the relationships between teacher and

student. And this changing perspective in the education system could not come suddenly. It is a consequence of long time of changing condition of society and changing attitude of the people including several changing strategy in teaching process. To maintain the changing perspective of education, teachers have to educate or trained before the beginning of his/her teaching career. Several committees, commissions, institutions have been made to enrich and to develop the teachers professionally. Because of like other professions, teaching is now regarded as profession in the educational system. That's why the teacher needs professional development in their novel profession. As the training is mandatory in teaching profession, so several training courses like DI.Ed B.Ed M.Ed and other educational programs refresher course, orientation, workshop, symposium, conference, summer camp have been introduced for the professional development for the teachers. Besides those, there are many assessment, self-assessment and evaluation process to enrich the professional development of the teachers. Teacher education means teaching skills, pedagogical theory, and professional skills. For achieving teaching skills teacher needs training and practice in different techniques, approaches and strategies that would help the teacher to plan and impart instruction, provide appropriate reinforcement and conduct effective assessment. Research and innovation have played



important roles in exploring the qualities of teachers training for all levels of teaching. There have been introduced several innovative ideas in the teachers training and education program. Among them reflective teaching which is a self-assessment strategy, is considered as the prominent and the innovative idea which is expected to fulfill the learning outcomes in the education system and to enrich the professional development of the teachers.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To find out the role of reflective teaching in teachers professional development.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL AND PROFESSIONALISM

There is a difference between professional and professionalism, though the term professionalism has been derived from the word professional. The term professional is personified here to a living being. Professional is a person who belongs to a profession abiding by some rules, regulations, ethics, morality and he must be expert in a specialized field of his job. Professional earns by selling his service. Professional is subjective and a single entity. But the term professionalism is objectified in the teaching profession. Professionalism includes gradation, skills, maturity, standard, devotion which are expected of a professional. So in conclusion, it can be said that professional is a personal and professionalism is the skills, competencies and proficiencies of the person in doing the teaching related activities. It is the working qualities of a person. In other words professionalism is prioritizing your duties against all other aspects, hindrance or emotions thereafter.

TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In teacher education, the phrase 'professional development' can be used in the field of magnificent diversity. Professional development includes professional skills strategy, better plan, executive quality, preparation, eloquent presentation. Evaluation maturity of the personal management skills, administrative skills and more focused on learner than that of paper work and to be more specific and advanced in subject matter. If teacher education is professionalised, it would produce teachers with professional outlook and professional work ethics. Effective professional development practice promotes collegiality and collaboration; it encourages risk taking and experimentation. It also involves teacher educators in decision making on the basis of their experiences and it helps them to reflect on as well as put into practice what they learn. Professionally powerful teaching is very important and is increasing in our contemporary society. Due to

the developments in this field, quality of teacher's education is better in 21st century than in 20th century. Now a day's teacher's professional development is regarded as an important and necessary quality in teaching profession in all over the world including India.

INNOVATION IN TEACHER EDUCATION

In the area of professional development research and innovation in teacher education has personated a constitutive induction in the enhancement of quality of teachers training for all levels of teaching. 'Innovation' is a Latin term which has been evolved from the word 'Innovare'. The verbatim meaning of the 'Innovare' is "to change something into new something". In modern time of teacher education, innovation can be considered as a refresh conception and practice in the upliftment strategy in professional development. Innovation should be done in each and every aspects of teacher education, like methodology, curriculum, research and evaluation. Many countries are using different kinds of innovative approaches, such as school cluster, field based training, school self-review and development, distance learning method and visiting advisors.

CONCEPT OF REFLECTIVE TEACHING

Reflective teaching is a self-assessment strategy in teacher's professional development. The word 'reflection' meant for shadow or image. It is like that one can see one's own image in the mirror as reflected as the same. Reflection is explained as self-image or self-shadow. Similarly, reflective is such like a strategy where a teacher can see the reflection of his or her own teaching related activities which he has performed in the classroom. By using this process a teacher can get a detailed description about the whole performance of the teacher than just a summary. Teachers are benefited to rectify their mistakes whether it happened in the classroom. And naturally they do not depend on the other person for their rectification. It is also considers as metacognition process because teachers think over their teaching practice. They think critically upon their teaching related activities. They are able to take decision of how the practice might be improved or changed for better learning outcome. Teacher is more capable to evaluate their performance and to think accurately upon their experience, action and decisions during their teaching practice and also able to purify their professional career. The teachers should question their professional performance and search for answers to the questions that will rise during their professional career.



THE IMPORTANCE OF REFLECTIVE TEACHING

- Reflective practice in teaching is arguably one of the most important sources of personal professional development and improvement. Effective teachers are first to admit that no matter how good a lesson is, their practice can always be improved.
- Reflective teaching practice is an imperative device for professional development both the pre-service and in-service teacher training programs.
- It develops critical thinking and promotes experiential learning.
- It implies a systematic method of collecting, recording and analysing the thoughts and observation.
- Reflective is an important self-assessment strategy where teacher can rectify own mistakes what happened in the classroom and they must not to be dependent on others.
- Teacher can use reflective teaching practice as a vital device to see the reflection of their performance to ensure the better learning outcomes.

ROLE OF REFLECTIVE TEACHING IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Reflective teaching acts as a better means of professional development of teachers. It is an organic or methodical cogitation on teaching practice which teacher performs in the classroom. They can record all the activities during ongoing class about their teaching and solve the problems arising out of the teaching. It is a practice of classroom boundary. Reflexing enhances personal development by leading to self-awareness. If the focus of reflection is improvement in students care it helps to develop and expand experience, knowledge, ability and skill. They spent time reflecting on things that both went well and things when wrong. When reflecting something, they search for specific strategies, approaches, materials, or people that can support them positive adjustment.

1. Teachers Prosperity

Professional development is necessary to enrich the quality and skill within teachers. For this reason teacher can use reflective practice as a prime technique to improve themselves professionally. Teacher cannot improve themselves unless they critically think about the analysis and evaluation of their professional practice.

2. Innovation and Up gradation

Effective teachers must be innovative and up to date in accordance with changing demand of the society. When the teachers have delivered his lesson using same method, same gesture posture, same style of presentation, and most of all limited knowledge of

subject matter then the whole teaching learning process may be monotonous, boring, uninteresting and above all the students also would not be able to up to date going beyond their boundary knowledge. The whole teaching learning process may be in a traditional cycle.

3. Learners' Knowledge

Teachers' professional development not only emphasis on up-to-date and innovation but also on teachers knowledge about their students. It means that effective teachers must be like a psychiatrist. As the psychiatrist have all the information, about their clients in the same way, an effective teachers must be rich of knowledge about their learners' ability, attitude, aptitude, interest, motivation, need, and even liking, disliking. By using reflective practice teachers are susceptible to better realise their students including the abilities and needs of the learner.

4. Developing Reflective Learners

As learners can enrich themselves and improve their performance in the teaching profession, similarly, they can create the same energy in the learners so that the learner would be more eager to contemplate on their exploration evaluation and also enhance their own learning. By effective usage of the reflective practice a student can be an independent learner to improve learning related skills.

5. Make a Good Performer

Every effective teacher requires good interpersonal skills along with effective speaking and strong presentation skills. Teachers should be well prepared for their lectures ensuring that they carry all the material that aids in teaching to the class. Motivational skill also include that will keep the fire burning in the bellies of students, and effective teacher should rank high empathy and rapport building strategies. Reflective teaching is the most significant tools and techniques which reveals to a teacher what and how a teacher has perform in the classroom. It shows how good or bad performance a teacher has given in the classroom. Reflective teaching is the only way to rectify your performance from bad to good and make you a better performer.

6. Make an Organized Teacher

Teachers must be good organizers being organized plays an essential role in being a good teacher, and is a very important quality of a good teacher. Without organizational skills, a teacher could really lose grasp of deadlines expectations and task. Poor organization could potentially lead to educational waste, and a waste of time. A teacher whitens the lack of organization skill he/she must be a reflective practitioner. Because reflective practice is such an important weapon of continuous professional development which clearly shows the merrier of lacking the competence the organization of a teacher which he wants meet and cure.



7. Develop Commutation Skill

Effective communication is a critical asset to acquire in both professional and intimate environment. It is the root of successful and memorable relationship. It is the case of teaching, which has strong communication skill as a teacher is an important for building teachers student rapport, and for really creating a trusting environment for students. Strong communication skills are essential for the objective of teaching itself. Through the continuous reflective practice, a teacher can easily acquire the skills of communication in which he/ she are less competent.

8. Develop Listening Skill

Being a good teacher means having your students listen to you, but also making sure that you listen and give your students the attention that they need by answering all of their questions. The reflection of a class in which a teacher has perform shows that if the teacher communicated or not, if he/ she does not do it they can easily understand the importance of listening and prepared themselves for next time of listening their students.

9. Mastery in Classroom Management

Good classroom management skills start with setting certain ground rules to stress the importance of classroom dignity. Teacher should exercise patience along with a deep sense of care and kindness to words their words. To be an effective teacher you should also be able to help students develop study and work habits. Reflective teaching is the only away of professional development which helps teachers to meet their skills of classroom management. Teachers find out the limitations of his/her personality which cannot manage the classroom and also invent all these that related to management skills.

10. Mastery in Subject Area

Every teacher comes with a specific specialization. When teacher demonstrate a high level of subject matter expertise, students will be encouraged to pose questions with a belief that they will be clarified then and there. This overall knowledge about the subject you have chosen to teach will thus pave the way for interesting classroom session. Through reflective practice a teacher could realize that he/she has a clear concept of a subject matter or not. If he/she has not deep understanding of the subject he/she will not be able to perform confidently. Using continuous reflective practice a teacher can improve his/her understanding or subject matter clearly because reflective practice shows the actual place where he/she has the lack.

STRATEGIES

The main objective of reflective teaching is to give concentration on one's own teaching. Teachers are arbitrary to select the preferable strategies of reflective teaching and nobody can mandate them for selecting the strategies. Several educational institutions put forward reflective strategies. These

are specially estimated for student teachers. They would be more proficient about how and when they have to teach. They would be aware about the better teaching strategy which they could achieve future. It is a valuable tool for both teacher and student teacher to improve their professional development.

These are the strategy's which a teacher can use:

- **Teaching journal or diary:** teachers can record their classroom performance in written forms. They also take notes of their own teaching.
- **Collaborative journals:** in a prescribed period a group of teachers conform diary and divide the activities.
- Teachers can make and take advantages of self-assessment form.
- They can use the video tape to record what happened in the classroom.
- A report can be created on classroom experience in a written form.
- Peers are to be engaged to review the activities of the teachers.
- Teachers would more beneficial to work with mentors.
- Teachers also make engage their students to evaluate teacher's activities and must consider students assessment.
- Teachers can use their autobiography which is a part of reflective teaching strategy

BENEFITS OF REFLECTIVE TEACHING IN TEACHER EDUCATION

- Reflective enables teacher as well as learners creatively mediate externally developed from works for teaching and learning, creative mediation and involves the interpretation of external requirements in the light of individuals understanding of a particular context, bearing in mind his/her values and educational principles.
- Reflective teaching develops the quality of teaching through continuous improvements.
- It gives educators new opportunities to reflect on and assess their teaching.
- It enables teachers to explore and test new ideas, methods, approaches, and materials.
- Teachers share feedback with fellow teachers
- The act of reflection is a great way to increase confidence and become a more proactive and qualified professional.

CONCLUDING REMARK

It can be concluded that the innovation of reflective strategy in teacher education programme put forward a milestone of teachers' professional



development. Reflective teaching is a metacognitive idea of thinking beyond thinking about the teachers own teaching which happened in the classroom. According to the researchers, reflective teaching practice provides critical thinking which gives more emphasis on teacher's professional development. It is like a mirror that reflects teachers own activities performed in the classroom situation. Teachers become proficient to mark the mistakes doing in the teaching period. Teacher are able to emend the defects of their plan, presentation, executive skills, teaching strategy, teaching behaviour, evaluation process, voice modulation, gesture, posture, body language, interaction skills and other teaching related proficiencies. Through the effective exercise of reflective teaching, a teacher makes himself a better professional including excellent quality of professionalism. Reflective teaching is a changing perspective in teacher education programme bringing a landmark in teacher professionalism.

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