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TOPICAL ISSUES OF TEACHING METHODOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A CRITICAL OVERVIEW

In the present study, an attempt has been made to analyze and explore various teaching methodologies and practices that play a significant role in enhancing the quality of education, enabling students to achieve success in the 21st century.

In today's fast-paced and ever-evolving 21st-century globalised world, one can perceive radical and drastic changes in the field of education. There is a pressing need for academicians to adopt modern teaching practices that align with the latest technological developments and learning theories. The technological innovations and the changing learners' expectations play a crucial role in this scenario.

Modern teaching practices refer to innovative and influential teaching methodologies that cater to the diverse learning styles and needs of students. Students utilize technology and other resources to inculcate an engaging and interactive learning atmosphere. These practices focus on student-centered learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, which are essential for students to adapt to the changing paradigm shifts of the 21st century [1].

Numerous factors affect teaching methodology, including social, cultural, economic, and digital shifts. One finds the integration of technology in teaching, where the digital tools, such as smart classrooms, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence, have revolutionized pedagogy [2]. Currently, one observes the emergence of learner-centered pedagogies, such as active learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving, which are at the core of modern education [3; 4].

With the increasing diversity in the classroom, teachers must accommodate the diverse needs, abilities, and cultural backgrounds of learners. Nowadays, in the field of education, one finds that education transcends subject boundaries. Teachers are integrating art, science, and Humanities to foster holistic understanding.

In this globalised world, the role of teachers is vital. They must prepare students to think critically about global issues, respect cultural diversity, and engage them in cross-cultural communication. At present, the emotional

well-being is given the utmost priority. The teaching methodologies are now integrating SEL to inculcate empathy, resilience, and emotional regulation among the students to promote a healthy learning environment.

Currently, rapid pedagogical changes necessitate that educators continually update their skills. Professional learning communities (PLCs), online courses, and reflective teaching practices support lifelong teacher learning. Regarding ethical and sustainable education, teachers are expected to address issues of sustainability, ethics, and social responsibility. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) encourages critical awareness of environmental and societal challenges.

In the 21st century, teachers are shifting from being knowledge deliverers to becoming facilitators, guides, and mentors who equip students with skills for an uncertain future. This new role requires them to integrate technology, foster creativity and critical thinking, personalize learning, and develop students' social and emotional well-being, in addition to providing academic instruction. Teachers must be lifelong learners themselves to adapt to new methodologies, such as project-based learning and flipped classrooms, and to stay current with technological advancements.

Over the last 50 years or so, there has been significant growth and advancement in the field of education, largely driven by ICT (Information and Communication Technology). In the current scenario, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays an instrumental role. Consequently, the entire world has become a global village to us. Education is a dynamic field, so with the passage of time, teaching methodologies and techniques should also evolve to meet the changing needs of students.

Modern teaching methods are required in the 21st century to prepare students for a technology-driven world by fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and digital literacy. They address the diverse needs of modern learners, who are often referred to as "digital natives," by offering more engaging, interactive, and personalized learning experiences that connect theory to real-world applications.

Currently, only contemporary or modern teaching methods can help learners grasp knowledge more effectively and learn lessons in a joyful, engaging, and attractive manner. Among the most effective teaching methods can be included Collaborative learning, spaced learning, flipped classroom, and crossover learning.

In brief, it is essential to consider how students can learn most effectively. Teachers should employ teaching methods that work best for them. It is critical for teachers to understand their students' needs, and to fulfill those needs, it is equally important to employ effective teaching methods.

References

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