

# Teaching Techniques At University

## And College—II

Dr. Ali Ahmed

THERE are a few scholarships/fellowships/grants offered by the foreign governments. Some of them are enjoyed by those who are not in the education service of the universities and colleges. They should be debarred from enjoying such academic facilities except, of course, those who are to serve in the training institutes permanently or in some specialised branches of the government. These grants in any form should be given to the university and college teachers.

Here again, there should be some quota reserved for the college teachers. The grants reserved for the college teachers should be allotted through open competition to be held by the University Grants Commission. This provision may cover a small number of college teachers who have better academic career. But what about them who have average academic career? They should be sent to our universities for higher degrees like M. Phil, Ph. D. This should be a continuous policy required to cover large numbers of college teachers. It is gratifying to note that the University Grants Commission has started to develop the college staff with financial assistance but this policy should be much wider so that it may cover larger numbers of teachers.

The university teachers who will guide the college teachers should be given a handsome additional remuneration and extra-credit. The government should not hesitate to give additional grants for this purpose, because by this process the government can have service of our university teachers with much less expense than what is to be incurred if college teachers are sent abroad for higher degrees as the fees and other expenses there are very high.

Besides, Loan Service of books should be started in Bangladesh. The system is nicely working, as I have seen, in the UK. The Young universities may take the books and other reading materials as loan from the older ones. The colleges in particular may be greatly benefited by this Loan Service system.

There are a few public libraries and their number must be increased. These libraries must be well-equipped. The present condition of them is deplorable. The government should spend much more than what is spent now. The government documents e.g. Commission's Reports, Statistical records, Assembly Debates should be given to these libraries free of cost and these should not be kept within the arms of the officials stating that these are meant "for official use only." The college teachers serving at the far-flung areas of the country may greatly be assisted by the public libraries in enhancing their knowledge if these are established at all district headquarters.

Thus far about the preparation of lecture, the most important technique of teaching at universities and colleges. Now a few words should be said about the presentation of facts through lecture.

doing justice to the students.

Be that as it may, these are naive sort of techniques for teaching for the university and college teachers who are expected to manage time without training. The most effective technique of communication is the behaviour of a teacher himself.

How should a teacher behave as a leader within the classroom? In answering such a question, one should know the distinction between the old and the modern concept of leadership. The old concept means the authority to command and ability to dominate the students. This is an authoritarian view. There is no participation by the students. There is one way-communication only and that is from the teacher. The old concept should be shun. It should not be applied at the universities and colleges where the students are mature.

Even it is not advocated for teaching the children at schools by the different prominent educationists e.g. Froebel, Montessori, Miss Helen Parkhurst. The modern democratic concept should be adopted. The modern concept of leadership mainly implies the ability of the teacher to influence and stimulate. And affectionate and sympathetic treatment is very useful to influence the students.

Then, even if the teacher adopts the modern concept of leadership, there remains the barrier of language. The barrier of language is universal difficulty during the course of delivering lecture as words may be understood and interpreted by different people in different ways. This language difficulty, it may be noted, is greater in our country now because we still have to depend upon the books and reading materials mostly written in English though our teachers are to teach in Bengali. The translation of the facts from the books written in English or other foreign language and which are selected and referred as the textbooks and reference books are yet to be translated into our language.

It is, therefore, imperative that independent cells within and outside the universities and colleges must be set up as early as possible without depending only on the Bengali Academy for translating the books, manuals and other reading materials published originally in the advanced countries usually in English. The task is stupendous but the responsibility lies inevitably with our teachers and educators.

### Seminar

Although the lecture method helps in increasing knowledge, the fact remains that it alone is not sufficient as a teaching technique when skills are to be developed among the students for thinking and writing by themselves. In order to provide them with the opportunity of developing such skills, there should be

are appointed by the teacher concerned as reviewers of the paper. Thus by turn every student is to be a writer and a reviewer.

The reviewers give their comments in the session. Other students join and take part in the discussions. The teacher concerned conducts the session to ensure that "only positive suggestions aimed at improving the paper are made and the comments do not take the form of rambling discussion or argument about semantics." The discussion over, the writer works further on his paper in order to make it more refined. He can, of course, defend his paper with arguments and reject the suggestions made or accept the comments and suggestions which, in his opinion, are more useful and constructive.

The seminar method has certain advantages. This is a method which induces a student to have more distinct knowledge on a particular topic. It increases his capacity to collect facts and put them in a systematic and coherent manner. It enables him to be a researcher. It demands that he should develop the power of speaking and presenting a paper logically, unambiguously, cautiously and carefully as, in addition to reviewers, he may be criticised by other fellow students of his group.

It not only helps the students but also helps the teacher to develop. The teacher-in-charge of the seminar has to help the students with the reading materials and organise the seminar. Thus the method helps the teacher to develop his academic and organising ability. The main difficulties that may be faced by our universities and particularly by our colleges are the dearth of proper seminar rooms, reading materials, logistic supports such as typists, papers, cyclostyle machines. But after providing all of the supports, the students studying under the existing environment may not take the seminar works so seriously. For this, in addition to awarding some marks to the seminar activities, some incentive such as publishing the best possible paper may be given to the students.

### Tutorial

The seminar method is not applied in our universities and colleges as a regular technique of teaching. But the tutorial method which has some similarity with the seminar method is practised. The most significant dissimilarity is that the tutorial paper is not discussed in a group as it is done under the seminar method. Under the tutorial method, communication between the teacher and the students seems to be quiet. In many cases the teacher and the students may tend to treat the task of writing the paper as a routine work which has to be undertaken as some marks are allotted for the tutorial activities of the paper. It would be to see Brazil lift the trophy in Los Angeles next week the American, winner of tournaments to lower ranked players. It was his second loss in successive Open. Sampras during last month's US ber one ranking which he lost to Pete chance of regaining his world number 1. "I wasn't playing well earlier this year. I was playing too calmly and it wasn't me. So I needed to get more pumped up and now this has helped me play better tennis," Ivanisevic said. But the big serving Croat holds no fears for a buoyant Yzaga.

ses, are allotted for them too.

Comparing the advantage of the seminar and tutorial methods, it seems desirable to adopt the seminar method provided, of course, the physical and academic facilities may be provided for our universities and colleges.

**Group Discussion:** The third method which may be adopted for enhancing the ability of the students to clarify a subject and have more understanding through mutual discussions is the group discussion method. Under this method, there is a small group of students having a common objective. The common objective is more thorough study of a particular subject. There are a chairman and a secretary in the group and they are selected from among the students by the teacher who is in charge of the group. The chairman conducts the discussions and observes that every one participates and the secretary takes down the relevant and important points highlighted in the discussions.

The teacher concerned prepares a brief outlining the field of study and covering the salient points and issues for discussion in the group. The brief also contains the necessary reference materials to help the students to participate effectively.

The teacher sits in a corner of the room where discussions take place as an observer and passive partner. He does not control the discussions. Under this technique, the participants are left free to conduct the discussions in a spirit of mutual exchange of ideas and views with complete freedom and no inhibition from any direction. It is actually a process of mutual self-learning by free and frank exchange of ideas on a selected field of study. The discussion of the group is culminated in a report prepared by the secretary of the group in consultation with the chairman. The report is then examined by the teacher concerned to see whether it contains the achievement of the objective set in the brief.

The main advantage of this technique is that it allows all the members of the group to participate freely, have mutual exchange of ideas on the subject and teach themselves. The technique enables them to develop the habit of speaking and facing the opposition with more logical arguments. A shy, introvert or lazy student who fails to have clear understanding of a subject on which lecture is delivered, can make up the same through mutual discussions. Intermingling students of different attitudes broadens their outlook and promotes better understanding which can be put to use in future working relations. It gives the students, on a more personal basis, the opportunity to develop confidence, to restrain themselves from being aggressive and encourage them to be tolerant of all. Above all, from the chairman and the secretary, and particularly from the former, it demands