

EDUCATION

Block Teaching At Primary Level

— Mohammad Tajuddin

TEACHING is an act of imparting knowledge to the learners. Now-a-days teaching has become an art. Without knowing the art one cannot be a good teacher. A man has to acquire the art of teaching either by his own effort or through the academic qualification for getting into the profession.

'Block Teaching' is one of the methodologies becoming popular day by day in primary level specially in classes I and II. Increasing appraisals of the teachers involved in Block Teaching, is the proof of its effectiveness in primary level. Block Teaching may be termed as teaching of a single teacher in a single class with full responsibility of all subjects concerned. The motto "one teacher for one class" is, no doubt, a primitive system of education. But its application is most up-to-date and sophisticated. There is no harm to apply the old principle in new methods.

To a new-born baby, mother is the most known face and familiar person. A child hardly knows any other person. Psychologically, a school going child (age 5+) also seeks a familiar person in school premises as his/her guide. School is an unknown place to the new learner. He/she has no familiar face in school, everybody is unknown to him/her. Further, school is a

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place of discipline and decorum. In such a place the new learner has enough doubts, fear and anxiety. So he or she is psychologically prepared to follow the instruction of a single guide (teacher). A single guide can help the child in all aspects. The guide should be humble, kind and familiar to the child. In classes I and II the teacher should be to the children as the mother is to her child. The teacher will have the motherly affection and quality. A number of teachers for different disciplines will, no doubt, puzzle the child. A good teacher is dedicated to the well-being of the children. Thus in teaching-learning process, child is our first consideration and teacher is the second consideration.

A teacher has to proceed with his work in a psychological way imparting ideas to the young learners. He or she has to know the age, ability, aptitude and taste of the child. These can be done smoothly by a single teacher who will be responsible for his or her deeds to

the authority. But, if a number of teachers remain responsible for a single child, nothing would be done as responsibility of many is responsibility of none. Therefore let a single teacher work in a single class, specially in classes I and II.

In Block Teaching a teacher requires no class routine. Teacher himself is the class routine. He can extend the class time as he needs if the children find interest in the class. No second person will come to disturb him in the class. He has enough liberty in his class.

According to the primary curriculum, there are seven disciplines for the classes I and II viz. Bengali, Mathematics, Social Studies, Religion, Physical Education, Art and Craft, and Music. A teacher has to gain mastery over these subjects from the Primary Training Institute (PTI) at the time of training and follow-up training and apply them in an innovative way on the curious child of the new world. A teacher has to follow the Integrated method in

his teaching in primary school and it is Block Teaching which enables the teacher to teach more than one subject in a single class at a time.

On an average the children of classes I and II remain in the class for two hours. At times the teacher as well as the children may take rest or may have a short walk or exercise or play minor games in the campus to overcome the monotony. Everything goes with the teacher in this system.

Block Teaching helps to decrease the drop-out rate from the primary schools in a large scale as the teacher engaged in Block Teaching can take special care of the children in school and outside school. Thus it helps to retain the child in the class and in school. It is one of the greatest merits of Block Teaching.

Block Teaching does not mean that a teacher remains tied to a single class year after year. Sometimes wrong explanation and misunderstanding misguide a person. Teachers can teach alternately in Block Teaching. Suppose Mr. X will teach this year in class I and Mr. Y in coming year and Mr. Z. the next year and so on. One teacher need not teach the same class for more than one year and that will help the teacher keep above monotony of teaching. (See Page 6)

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ing in the same class.

Successful teaching depends upon the familiarity of the teacher with the children taught. He should avoid any tendency of becoming a terror in the class. Terror and anger are always an impediment to teaching. Therefore a teacher should always keep himself under control.

For the success of Block Teaching at primary level proper training is required that will help the involved teachers to acquire proper knowledge and methodologies. Many teachers engaged in Block Teaching in primary schools as well as experimental schools of different PTIs suffer from shallow knowledge about Block Teaching. They have doubts and disbelief about the effectiveness of Block Teaching. It might not have been so, had there been proper training on Block Teaching to the teachers before its application in Experimental Schools and Primary Schools. The National Academy for Primary Education can extend its helping hand for proper training of the teachers engaged in Block Teaching in different Experimental Schools adjacent to 52 PTIs and primary schools of the country.