

# Teaching Techniques At University

## And College—III

Dr. Ali Ahmed

THE methods like lecture, seminar and group discussions help, the students to obtain knowledge as clearly as possible. But the fact remains that these are based on hearing only, whatever may be the unambiguity of the language used in these methods. The students can be stimulated more if they can directly see symbols of the information is given.

In fact, teaching can be made more effective if the means of communication is a combination of "hearing, seeing, looking and visiting. The interplay of looking and hearing more clearly influences how well people learn." A good teacher, therefore, has to adopt the combination of hearing and seeing. A good teacher is a good explainer of problems to the students. But this service of explaining cannot be made fully effective through mere talk or discussion. Here, if anywhere, the use of audio-visual materials is essential. By using them, "he can bring the world to the classroom" and explain with much less verbalism required to make the students understand what the world is.

Thus the central idea of the audio-visual techniques is that mere reading and hearing cannot convey the full meaning of a topic as directly and easily as desirable. It emphasises that all teachings can be greatly improved by the use of such materials because they can help make the learning experience memorable.

These audio-visual materials, as know, are verbal symbols (chalk-board, flat maps, diagrams, charts etc.), recordings, radio, still-pictures, motion pictures, television, exhibits (photographs), field trips, demonstration, model, imitation and direct experiences (making a piece of furniture, preparing meals, taking a trip) and many others.

Audio-visual methods may be used in a large scale at the schools. But its use at the universities and colleges may be limited. It need not be used in every teaching situation as the students are more mature.

However, the teachers who wish to use the audio-visual materials intelligently have to make a plan, carry out the plan, and then judge its effectiveness. For this, they have to be good planners, organizers and evaluators and so they have to be well-trained.

In the case of Bangladesh, even after knowing the value of the use of audio-visual materials in making the teaching more effective and direct, it has not yet been a regularly used method, particularly in the Arts and Commerce faculties. The main reasons, in my opinion, are:

(a) Lack of audio-visual materials which cannot be obtained for want of finance; (b) even if some materials can be obtained the inertia that generally prevails in our institutions discourage the use of these materials; (c) the reason, in turn, is that they

topics. Otherwise, this will be "spoon-feeding" which stands as a great bar to developing originality of the students. Again, the nature of the notes should be taken into consideration. It should not be exhaustive. It should be in the form of outlines or short summary of the topics which are comparatively harder to understand.

Some teachers do not like to take the pains to prepare these kinds of notes for helping the students who are sometimes drowning down for want of reading materials. Those teachers who are willing to take the pains are often discouraged for want of adequate logistic support such as typists, papers, cyclostyle machines, photostat machines etc. The sooner the reading materials, specially on the difficult subjects are obtained the better it is for both, students and teachers. But the question of resource constraint will arise again and again in a country like ours. So, until we can procure the necessary reading materials in sufficient volumes, the teachers must be assisted with the supporting materials required for note-giving.

**Laboratory Classes :** Organisation generally involves cooperative efforts by a number of people to achieve some purpose. It is obvious that the efforts of different persons must be according to a preconceived plan if the purpose in hand is to be accomplished. Otherwise, there is sure to be confusion, conflicts and working at cross purposes. So there must be a plan of action and this is called organisation.

In case of university and college teachers, organising the laboratory/tutorial classes means planning how the classes will be held, where by whom and when these will be held. This kind of planning involves the grouping of students, physical facilities of the laboratory classes, the experience and ability of the teachers to be placed in charge and the preparation of time schedule properly. All these seem to be not so difficult tasks but in case of Bangladesh, there is a dearth of proper laboratory classes, experience and, above all, physical facilities including scientific equipment particularly at the colleges. So these will have to be done carefully so that there might be no confusion.

Last but not the least, component of the subject namely, "teaching technique" is supervision of the laboratory/tutorial classes. It is a fact that even a well-organised laboratory class will fail to deliver the goods in the absence of proper supervision by the teachers concerned.

the supervision as effective as it ought to be? In answering such a question we come to the concept of supervision that should be applied by a supervising teacher. There are two concepts — the traditional concept and the modern concept.

The traditional concept emphasises the idea of "stricter checking" and "greater restraint". In other words, excessive coercion plays the predominant role in the traditional approach of supervision.

The traditional approach of supervision what McGregor has named as theory 'X' is rationalised on the following grounds: first, the average human being has an inherent dislike for work and will avoid it, if he can. Because of this human tendency to dislike work, most people need to be goaded and directed to get them to put forth adequate efforts toward the achievement of the objective, here learning. Second, participative learning by teachers and students may lead to some problems of discipline, and conflicts. Third, because of educational superiority, the supervisor i.e. the teacher should have the right to work unilaterally.

On the whole, the traditional concept of supervision is authoritarian. This concept may bring some good results but these will be purely temporary. This will not induce the students to work spontaneously and after some time, there may be reaction among them and they may be less attentive.

The modern concept which McGregor has named as theory 'Y' views the problem from a democratic stand-point, meaning thereby that while the supervisor makes it clear to the students what should be done, he uses 'power' and not 'authority' to induce them to act according to his direction. Further, he should provide favourable conditions of work in the laboratory and then he will find that the students will like the work and come forward to undertake it spontaneously. Finally, the 'Y' theory assumes that human beings generally do not dislike work.

### Not Fault-finding

What is emphasised by the modern concept is that supervision finds fault and it is not fault-finding. It finds fault in the sense that it does not unearth bad situations only, but also finds out constructive and helpful suggestions. Supervision should try to get at the reasons for any failure on the part of students so that we can correct them. A good supervisor will not find out the defects only but will indicate the remedies. For this, the supervisor will have to sit with them, discuss with them, and help them to

working, there will be little need for enforcement. The students will work spontaneously.

The modern concept should be applied in our universities and colleges. We should try to improve the situations so that the modern concept may be applied fully in course of time.

In order to apply the modern concept successfully, a supervisor and a teacher, according to professor J.M. Pfiffner, should have the following qualities:

a. Command of job-content which means expert knowledge of the word to be supervised.

b. Personal qualifications which are a cooperative spirit, evenness of temper and due performance of duty.

c. Proper teaching ability.  
d. General out-look which means that the supervisor should have faith in and enthusiasm for the work with which he is concerned so that he may be able to inspire and lead those working under him.

e. Courage and fortitude which implies that the supervisor should not be afraid of taking responsibility and acting decisively. This, however, must not degenerate into want of caution.

f. Managerial technology which means capacity to organise, coordinate and direct.

g. Curiosity and intellectual ability which mean an attitude of alertness and flexibility and not being impervious to new ideas and practices.

h. Ethical and moral considerations.

Finally, the span of supervision should be taken care of. An ideal span of control is an important factor for making the supervision effective. Span of control is nothing but the span of attention applied to the work of supervision. It refers to the number of students a supervisor can effectively supervise.

There is no agreement among the writers on span of control i.e. about the exact number of persons who may be supervised by a supervisor effectively. It varies with four factors: function, personality, time and space. In case of the laboratory classes/group, ideally, the number may vary from 8 to 12. But since is our country the number may be higher than the ideal one because of limitations. It may, however, be noted that it should not be much higher because in that case the purpose of supervision cannot be achieved.

**Conclusion :** Any society is not static. It is subject to change. The teaching techniques are also static. They may be changed from time to time with a view to enhancing the quality of teaching at our universities and colleges.

Already in the intellectual ferment generated by the rapidly changing situation in the field of higher education in our country, the traditional

Virus fever in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Oct 9:—Hundreds of people of Sherpur and Jamalpur were affected by the disease. The Mymensingh Area Commandant Major General Muhammad... are taking part in 110 weight categories. About 110 boxers from ten teams yesterday, reports BSS. Ghatil Cantonment at Tangail, Bangladesh Army got underway at the boxing championship of the Bangladesh. Oct 10:—The annual right winger Kinedi put them ahead after 19 minutes.

GHATAIL, Oct 10:—The annual right winger Kinedi put them ahead after 19 minutes. Nigerian nerves were settled when average and quality from Group A, match to head the Ivory Coast on goal. Davaug where for the first time in petition is being held. She is one of the Four Star World Qualifying Series of Surfing. The tournament, carrying a Four Star World Qualifying Series

up in USA means lot for Pele