



IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION IN TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS

Ms Deepti Rawat

Research Scholar Shobhit University Meerut

Abstract

The success of the teaching-learning process depends on the teacher's knowledge and the teacher's ability to transfer the same to the students. Communication plays a vital role in the transfer of knowledge to take place. Furthermore, the process is facilitated by the verbal communication that not only helps in the sharing of the knowledge but also creates an amicable environment to facilitate the sharing of ideas/opinions/feelings between the teacher and the students. In this regard, the paper explores the role of communication in education with the special focus on the verbal communication.

Keywords: *Communication, Teaching Learning Processes*



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Introduction

Teaching is a very noble profession that aims at inculcating knowledge, tradition, values etc. in the child. It is where a more mature personality guides a less mature ones especially on the areas related to the cognitive side of the mind. According to Gage,

"Teaching is a form of interpersonal influence aimed at changing the behaviour potential of another person."

Teaching is essentially a social activity which has a significant impact not only on the learning of the child but also on his/her overall personality. The teacher is now being designated as a facilitator who facilitates in the teaching learning process of a child in all the possible ways. He is regarded as the friend, philosopher and a guide to the students who helps the child in the process of cognitive development.

Communication plays a vital role in all spheres of life. Being an essence of any and every society, it helps the people to share and understand the meanings. Communication has been derived from the word 'communicate' which means 'to share or to make common'. It plays a vital role in creating understandings and establishing relationships. Being the most important

social tool, communication has the power of alteration, negotiation as well as the power to leave a long lasting impact on one's mind. Thus, it needs to be handled carefully to avoid several confusions and controversies.

Communication though has a major role in all walks of life; it has a further more significant place in the teaching learning processes. Research has shown that the teaching comprises of mainly two components viz. the knowledge of the teacher and his mastery over the communication skills for the transfer of the knowledge. The either one without the other defeats the meaning as well as the purpose with which it was introduced. A teacher may be very knowledgeable, but this knowledge will not serve the purpose unless it is transferred in a manner it is intended to.

On the basis of the medium, communication had been divided into two parts viz. Verbal communication and the non verbal communication. . Verbal communication involves the use of the language whereas the non verbal communication is essentially based on the use of expressions, gestures, actions etc. Both the forms of the communication are extremely important for complete transfer/understanding of the content yet when it comes to the teaching learning processes, verbal communication plays a much more vital role in the transfer of the knowledge.

Defining Communication

What is 'communication'? According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary the word means 'the act of imparting, especially news', or 'the science and practice of transmitting information'.

Communication has been defined as

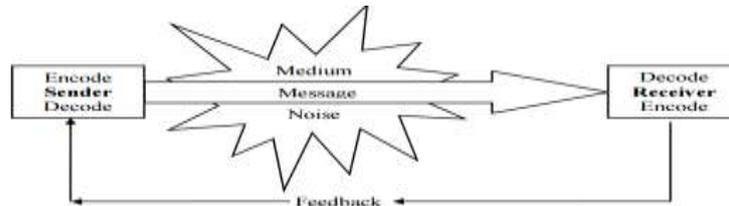
"The process of transmitting information and common understanding from one person to another"

(Keyton, 2011).

Thus communication may be understood as a way of transferring thoughts, ideas, opinions and knowledge from the sender to the receiver. According to Hybels and Weaver (1995), the communication process is made up of various elements: sender-receiver, messages, channels, noise, feedback, and setting. Shannon and Weaver (1963) diagrammed communication and identified the process as involving an information source, a message, transmission or encoding of the message, a signal, a channel, a receiver or decoder of the message, a destination, and noise.

Communication has been discussed as a two way process where the information is transferred across from the sender to the receiver wide a proper medium. The choice of the medium

depends on the choice of the sender. The sender selects the medium, and sends the message across the receiver, who in turn decodes the information received, understands it and sends a suitable reply or feedback back to the sender. Communication is thus the process of sharing our ideas, thoughts, and feelings with other people. The process of communication may be seen in the diagram given below.



Role of Communication in Education

Education is regarded as the most important tool in the improvisation of the society and communication plays a vital role in the education process. Communication helps to transmit the knowledge from the sender (the teacher) to the receiver (student) apart from the sharing of other ideas, thoughts and opinions. The diagram given below gives a glimpse of the classroom communication:



Source: (Prozesky, 2000)

Azam & Kingdon (2014) reported in a study that teachers matter a great deal as far as achievement of students is concerned. Apart from the basic knowledge, the effective communication plays a major role in motivating the students, knowing their aspirations and the problems that they may have. Though, both the verbal and the non verbal communication play a vital role, yet an effective verbal communication helps in building a strong teacher student relationship which acts as a platform for the strong cognitive development. Easy and effective verbal communication helps the teachers to get an insight into the child's thoughts/ideas/opinions/issues whereas the students get the knowledge of the teacher's expectations, knowledge and skills. This open environment lays a strong foundation for a healthy classroom environment based on mutual trust and respect. Communication takes place through channels. Within the teaching profession, communication skills are applied in the teachers' classroom management, pedagogy and interaction with the class (Saunders and

Mills, 1999). In addition, teaching speaking skills is important in teacher education (McCarthy and Carter, 2001).

Teaching has been regarded as an exciting adventure in which both the teacher and the students participate. The teaching philosophy includes basic communication approaches; (a) Passion and Communication. (b) Fairness: to understand students as individuals and students. (c) Critical thinking: as lecturers should be challenged to try to deliver course materials in different ways and from different perspectives. (d) Humour and fun: Pleasing students by being approachable will make them more determined to excel in their assignments and lecturers will be inspired by their students. Communication in the teaching process help students attach concepts to their own lives, as students will apply what they learn in class to the world around them (Weheba & Kedar, 2007).

Robinson (2007) attempted to examine student achievement through a communicative lens. Factors such as immediacy, perceived caring, and communication apprehension in the teacher-student relationship were further investigated. Wigforss (2010) argued that it is a fact that human communication plays an important role in how you develop an intellectual mind and the way knowledge is transferred to the next generation. Modern learning theories, such as Kolb (1984), Laurillard (1993), Papert (1991) and Jonassen et al (1995) have adopted the fact that students should construct their own knowledge through communication with a variety

The Indian Scenario: What needs to be done?

The Teacher Education Policy in India has evolved over time and is based on recommendations contained in various Reports of Committees/Commissions on Education, the important ones being the Kothari Commission (1966), the Chattopadhyay Committee (1985), the National Policy on Education (NPE 1986/92), Acharya Ramamurthi Committee (1990), Yashpal Committee (1993), and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF, 2005). The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which became operational from 1st April, 2010, has important implications for teacher education in the country (MHRD, 2016). With the vast number of students who have and will be joining the schools because of the implication of the RTE Act, the teachers need to be prepared to address their needs. Pandya and Bora (1997) reported that 40% of the students in India drop out because of disliking for teachers which may be associated with the punishment inflicted by the teachers or the lack of knowledge. The traumatic experiences might have made the child disliking the teachers and studies in general (Baruah & Goswami, 2012). The reasons

also include the lack of the ability of the teacher to transmit the information across to the learners owing to the poor knowledge and lack of communication skills. Research studies have shown that the students may drop out from the schools due to lack of interest in the studies that as researched upon may be inculcated by the teachers with good knowledge and sound communication skills. Thus communication skills need to be focussed upon in the pre service and the in-service training programme to reduce student drop out in the country.

Conclusion

Communication skills play a crucial role in the teaching learning process. The communication skills of the teachers need to be reinforced in the teacher training programmes for facilitating the fluent transmission of the knowledge. Verbal communication needs to be stressed further more to make teaching learning process more interactive, empathetic and fun filled.

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