

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN LEARNER-CENTERED LEARNING & LIBRARY AS A CLASSROOM

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Abstract

Classroom management is an essential component of teaching. Unfortunately it is ignored decades together as teachers never had any freedom to do anything independently except completing the syllabus prescribed by the affiliated university. A committed and competent teacher is honored and students maintain perfect silence in his class. Without proper understanding of classroom management teachers have been teaching. Similarly higher ups have been insisting on learner-centered learning. Though it is not a new concept, it is thrust on teachers without preparing either the students or the teachers mentally. The paper intends to discuss teacher-centered learning and student centered learning and classroom management in both the cases.

Key words; Classroom management, learner centered learning

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In a teacher-centered classroom, teachers choose what the students have to learn, how the students have to learn, and how the students have to be assessed on their learning. Students do not have freedom except listening to what the teacher teaches or pretend to be attentive. Effective teachers display classroom-management skills, while the hallmark of the inexperienced or less effective teacher is a disorderly classroom filled with students who are not working or paying attention. The focus of effective classroom management is largely on rules and strategies that teachers may use to make sure students are sitting in their seats,

following directions, listening attentively. The members of faculty seem to have lost interest in enhancing their knowledge. In fact teaching is no more challenging. They select important questions, prepare notes and dictate it to students for years till the syllabus is changed. Satisfied with the completion of syllabus, they do not bother about the all round development of the students.

Classroom management can be explained as the actions and directions that teachers use to create a successful learning environment; indeed, having a positive impact on students achieving given learning requirements and goals. Effective classroom management begins with student compliance and classroom orderliness, since learning cannot happen when students are not listening, when they are disobeying the teacher, or when they are disrupting other students in the class..

Learner-centered approaches assume that only when students are active participants, learning that takes place will be deep enduring and enjoyable. Moreover, this would then help in transfer of learned concepts and abilities to contexts beyond classroom (Walczyk and Ramsay, 2003) Different terms like flexible learning, experiential learning, self-directed learning are used to denote learner-centered learning though the much used term is student-centered learning.

In contrast, student-centered learning requires students to be active, responsible participants in their own learning and with their own pace of learning. Learner centered learning is expected to bring amazing transformation in classrooms. The teacher has a pivotal role to play in the learner centered learning. Though the most important task of the teacher is transmission of information to the student community, he has to reorient his teaching to develop skills and abilities in students so that they can acquire information by self study. In brief, he has to aim at teaching the students how to learn rather than what to learn. The ultimate aim of education is to help the student grow socially useful and develop their intellectual interests and capabilities in order to make them responsible members of the society.

Effective classroom management starts with relationship building. When students feel a greater sense of belonging, they're more likely to be academically engaged and demonstrate positive behavior. Classroom management and management of student conduct are skills that teachers acquire and hone over time. Effective teaching requires considerable skill in managing myriad tasks and situations that occur in the classroom every day. The skills associated with effective classroom management are only acquired with practice-feedback, and a willingness to learn from mistakes. Strong teacher-student relationships is believed to be a foundational aspect of a positive experience. When those relationships are damaged, student well-being may be affected, leading to academic and behavioral problems. Making meaningful connections with students is one of the most effective ways to prevent disruptions. Teachers have to focus not only on academics but also on supporting students' emotional well-being and this is possible only when the teacher plays the role of mentor.

Learner-centered perspective maximizes high standards of learning, motivation, and achievement for all learners--for both students and their teachers. It begins with a focus on knowing and understanding each learner in the context of a deep understanding of the learning process itself. Teacher becomes a colleague and participating learner. They set directions and introduce opportunities and act as

guides and resource persons, not as authoritarian figures dictating each step of the educational process.

The main critique of student-centered learning is its focus on the individual learner. In addition, there are some difficulties in its implementation, i.e. the resources needed to implement it, the belief system of the students and staff, and students' lack of familiarity with the term.

The shift in higher education from the teacher-centered learning to learner-centered learning has made the library important-much more important than a classroom. Globalization insists on quality enhancement in every sphere and in higher education institutes libraries have a crucial role to play in the enhancement of quality, as they contribute significantly to the learning process. More than any other department in higher education, libraries are expected to shoulder responsibilities, which are very new. Libraries greatly support learning, teaching and research processes in institutions. With the insistence on learner-centered educational effort, library has assumed importance, which was never dreamt of. It is expected to satisfy the needs of the users and naturally has to follow the latest emerging trends in technology, which demands a number of skills on the part of the librarian.

Libraries greatly support learning, teaching and research processes in institutions. With the insistence on learner-centered educational effort, library has assumed importance, which was never dreamt of. It is expected to satisfy the needs of the users and naturally has to follow the latest emerging trends in technology, which demands a number of skills on the part of the librarian. Academic libraries have to respond to the growing and diversifying information needs of the users. In fact the information society of the twenty-first century offers the opportunity for libraries to play a central role in the academic community, which means the library and information professionals' role has expanded and challenges have increased manifold. These opportunities and challenges can be handled effectively by competent library personnel only.

Learner centered learning is possible if students master key skills such as communication skills, use of

information technology, cognitive skills and learning how to learn. The outcomes of Learner centered instruction are very positive but students and faculty have to be motivated for the task as it requires changing mindset.

'Placing learners at the heart of the learning process and meeting their needs, is taken to a progressive step in which learner-centered approaches mean that persons are able to learn what is relevant for them in ways that are appropriate. Waste in human and educational resources is reduced as it suggested learners no longer have to learn what they already know or can do, nor what they are uninterested in'.
([Edwards 2001](#))

Conclusion

Keeping all the students busy in learning process is the simple secret of managing a classroom well. If the teachers are able to facilitate learner-centric environment conducive to quality education and faculty maturation to adopt the required knowledge and technology for participatory teaching and learning process, if they make use of ICT based teaching –learning process and involve in experiential learning and participative learning, classroom management is not a problem. A user friendly librarian who has the required skills will be able to turn the library into a coveted classroom for any student, who believes that learner-centered learning is the best.

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