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Professional and Communication Skills for Teachers

Meeta Sinha Jakhanwal¹

Abstract

Basically the current study sought to assess the perception of students regarding the role of teacher communication skills in their academics success. Comprehensive questionnaire carrying information including communication skills aspects of the study were designed to achieve the set objectives. Communication skill is the ability to convey and share information with others in an efficacious way. It is a very vital skill and used widely in all work sectors. Communication is an important skill for every modern student to master. Advances in digital media, changing career landscapes, and greater competition in colleges and workplaces makes improving student communication skills a must. In any education system, teacher's quality is the most important factor influencing student's scholastic achievement. Teacher's quality plays a pivotal and decisive role in students' academic progress. These qualities are quantified by their skills, knowledge, and qualifications.

Key Words: Professional Development, Teacher Education, Communication Skills,

Introduction:

Good communication skills of teacher are the basic need of academics success of students, and professional success of life. Teacher communicates more instructions orally in classroom to students. Teacher with poor communication skills may cause failure of students to learn and promote their academics. Student need to understand that what is right, and what is wrong while it totally depend upon the communication skills of teachers which he adopt in class-room (Sherwyn P. Morreale, Michael M. Osborn Judy c. Pearson, 2000). Good communications minimize the potential of unkind feeling during the process of teaching. For learning the learner must be attentive toward their teacher during the lecture. Loss (2000), recommended that teacher communicate in clear and understandable manner. To evaluate a teachers' competence qualification and experience alone are not sufficient (Hedges & Greenwals, 1996). Communication skills is one of the several factors that has to be taken into account. Ability to convey knowledge is impossible without communication skills. When on a lookout for a competent teacher, good communication skills should come in priority list.

An education system is only as good as its teachers. Yet, despite growing demand for guidance on policies that raise teacher effectiveness, achieving the right teacher policies for a given education system remains a challenge. For a teacher to fulfil his or her professional function in a given domain, a synthesis of knowledge, attitudes and practical skills is needed

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(Falus,2002). Communication skills include many things-effective use of language, the way we articulate pitch/tone of voice, kinesics, interpersonal skills etc.

Effective Communication

In the information age, we have to send, receive, and process huge numbers of messages every day. But effective communication is about more than just exchanging information; it also about understands the emotion behind the information. Effective communication must take into account the context and purpose for which teachers and students are communicating. Given the emphasis on 21st century competencies, more demands are being made on the students to explain, justify and reason through problem-solving strategies. The interaction among students as they co-construct knowledge becomes important too. We want them to recognize the role of language in meaning making, and see communication as a collaborative activity. It shouldn't be just one-sided, as in teacher disseminating information, but two-way with teacher and/or students responding to each other to deepen content learning. Effective communication means that the receiver fully understands, comprehends and interprets what the speaker and/or writer has conveyed. Effective communication combines a set of skills including nonverbal communication, attentive listening, the ability to manage stress in the moment, and the capacity to recognize and understand emotions and those of the person we are communicating. In other words, the communication is said to be effective when all the parties (sender and receiver) in the communication, assign similar meanings to the message and listen carefully to what all have been said and make the sender feel heard and understood.

Teaching is all about communication - listening, speaking, reading, presenting and writing. Teachers who hone their communication skills are prepared to instruct, advise and mentor students entrusted in their care. Additionally, teachers must communicate well to effectively collaborate with colleagues and update administrators on student progress. As variety of skills are needed for good teaching and teachers. A study conducted by Ehindero & Ajibade, (2000) indicates that for effective teaching, teacher requires good communication skills such as good communication, good classroom management, updating knowledge and maintaining personality. No one can teach effectively until having these basics skills of teaching. Good communication is not only needed for the effective teaching profession but it is also very important for the effectiveness of every concern to our life (Batenburg & Smal, 1997 Cited in Ihmeideh).

Justification of the Study

Effective teachers professional development is needed in educational institutional to be better meet the needs of learners. Research on effective professional development has provided a wide range of results (Guskey, 2009). Teacher communication skills are considered a key to academic success and failure of the students. How much teacher communication skills effect the academics success of the students? For the purpose to discover the facts the researcher intend to conduct a research study under the title “Communication Skills of a Teacher and its role in the developments of the students’ academic success”.

Objectives of the study

To evaluate the role of teacher communication skills in the academic performance of the students and to explore the necessity and practical utility of the communication skills course.

Proposed Hypothesis

There is significant role of teacher communication skills of teachers in academic success of the students and teacher effectiveness is a key predictor of student learning.

Methodology and Procedures of the study

To obtain the desired objectives by conducting any research study the first and initial steps to select a suitable persons and its proper number which provide authentic data regarding the solution of the problem is needed. Similarly specific procedures are also required for reaching at certain findings and conclusion. So keeping in view the need and demand of the present study the following procedures were adopted by the researcher for fulfilling the demand of the present study.

Population, Sample & Sample Selection Process

Basically the study is concerned with communication skills of a Teacher as part of their professional attitude and students learning process. So Six B.Ed., and Six B.Tech, Six MBA colleges were selected randomly. 40 students were picked up randomly from each of these colleges. The 240 teacher trainees selected did not undergo any communication skill classes whereas 240 students of B.Tech and 240 students of MBA had undergone these classes in the first year of their professional course. A total 720 students were selected for the study; the whole population were taken as sample of the study and by using the available sample technique.

Data Analysis

The gathered data were coded and fitted in Regression as statistical tool was used to analyse the data and to test the hypothesis of the study.

Result & Discussion

The present study indicates that majority of the students opined that they learn well from those teacher who has good communication skills or who adopt good communication skills while dealing inside and out of the institution. **Teacher effectiveness is a key predictor of student learning.** In fact, it has been found to be the most important school-based predictor of student learning (Hanushek and Rivkin 2010), a finding that indicates the potential for teacher policies to improve student learning. The present research study that good communication is not only important for a teacher but students also need to have good communication skills.

Conclusion

After findings of the study it was concluded by the researcher that communication skills of a teacher having significant role in the academic success of the students. Teaching is all about

communication - listening, speaking, reading, presenting and writing. Teachers who hone their communication skills are prepared to instruct, advise and mentor students entrusted in their care. Therefore it is necessary for a teacher to adopt good communication skills while teaching to the students. Effective communication must take into account the context and purpose for which teachers and students are communicating. Given the emphasis on 21st century competencies, more demands are being made on the students to explain, justify and reason through problem-solving strategies.

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