

19. TEACHING - LEARNING PROCESS

Teaching-learning is a continuous process consisting of various steps. It is difficult to separate steps from one another. According to Wilson and Gallup the following are the steps in teaching-learning process (AIDCAS).

- Attention
- Interest
- Desire
- Conviction
- Action
- Satisfaction

Attention

The first task of the extension worker is to attract attention of the learners to the new and better ideas. Farmers are to be made aware of the improvement.

Interest

Once attention has been captured it becomes possible for the teacher to appeal to the basic needs or urges of the individual and arouse his interest in further consideration of the idea. Extension worker reveals how new practice will contribute to the farmer's welfare. The message should be presented attractively.

Desire

The desire is concerned with continuing farmer's interest in the idea or better practice until interest becomes a desire or motivating force. The extension worker explains the farmer that the information applies directly to the farmer's situation and doing of this would satisfy his needs.

Conviction

Action follows desire, conviction of the people, and prospects of satisfaction. In this step, the learner knows what action is necessary, and just how to take that action. He also makes sure that the learner visualizes the action in terms of his own peculiar situation and has acquired confidence in his own ability to do things.

Action

Unless conviction is converted into action the efforts are fruitless. It is the job of the extension worker to make it easy for the farmers to act. If new control measure is action oriented, the recommended chemical should be available within the farmers reach. Necessary equipments should also be available. If action does not quickly follow the desire the new idea

will fade away. Therefore this phase should never be neglected.

Satisfaction

This is the end product of the process. Follow-up by the extension worker helps the farmers to learn to evaluate their progress and strengths. Satisfaction helps to continue his action with increased satisfaction. Satisfaction is the motivating force for further learning. "A satisfied customer is the best advertisement" will also apply to the extension worker.

The above six steps are often blended with each other and lose their clear cut identity. Of course these steps are based on motivation.

Principles of teaching

- i. The learner should subscribe to and understand the purpose of the course.
- ii. The student should have desire to learn.
- iii. The teacher should keep friendly and informal relationship with learner.
- iv. The physical condition should be favorable and appropriate to the learning situation.
- v. The teacher should involve the learners so that they participate and accept
- vi. responsibility for the learning process.
- vii. The teacher should make use of the learner's experiences.
- viii. The teacher should prepare ahead of the class, keep his teaching aids handy and should be enthusiastic about teaching it.
- ix. The method of instruction should be varied and appropriate.
- x. The teacher should update his notes with the availability of new knowledge on the topic of subject.

Learning

Learning is the process by which a person becomes changed in his behaviour through self-activity.

"Learning is the process of progressive behaviour adaptation".

Amplification

1. Learning is something that takes place within the learner.
2. It takes place within the individual when he feels a need, strives for fulfilling it, and experiences satisfaction with the fruits of his labour.
3. Learning is the goal of teaching.

We must however avoid any artificial separation, since teaching and learning are really one process; they are so as to say, two sides of the same coin.

Learning Experience

Definition

It is mental and/or physical reaction one makes through seeing, hearing or doing things to be learned, through which one gains meanings and understandings of the material to be learned.

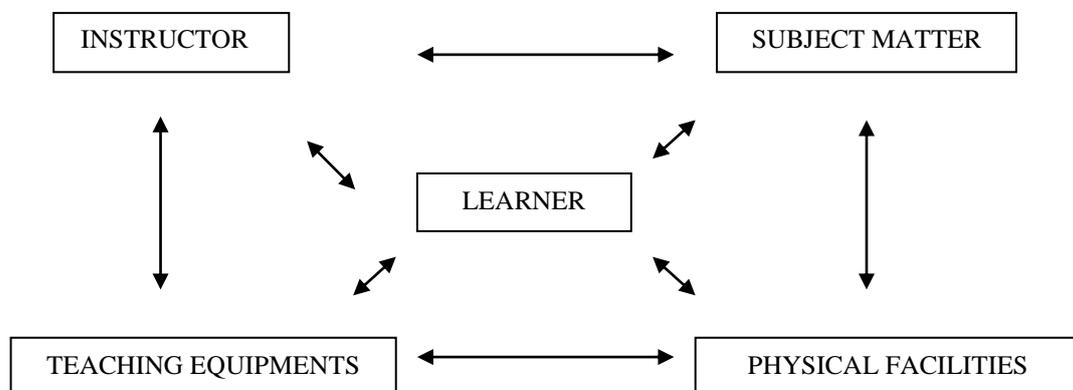
Learning is an active process on the part of the learner. Hence, learning experience is not attained by mere physical presence in a learning situation, it is what the participant does (i.e. his reaction) in the learning situation. He must give undivided attention to the instructor and deep-through for getting the facts, understanding their meaning, and to see their application to his needs and problems. Effective learning experiences therefore, can be best gained in effective learning situations provided a skillful instructor who knows what he wants, who has the material to accomplish his goals and the skills to use them effectively.

Learning Situation

Definition

Learning is a coordination of environment in which all the elements necessary for promoting learning are present; namely (1) Instructor (2) Learner (3) Subject matter (4) Teaching materials and equipments and (5) Physical facilities.

Figure below is a symbolic representation of the reaction, the learner makes to the other elements and the way these five elements react to each other.



To have an effective learning situation, these five major elements should satisfy the following condition.

1. Instructor should

- a) Have clear objective.
- b) Know the subject matter and have it well organized.
- c) Be enthusiastic and interested in the subject.
- d) Be able to communicate with learners.

- e) Be democratic in his leadership.
- f) Allow student's participation, ask for it.
- g) Be prepared, be prompt, be friendly, and be courteous.
- h) Use a teaching plan.
- i) Speak, so that all can hear.
- j) Set a good example of a good leader and teacher.
- k) Be skilled in the use of teaching materials and equipments.

2. Learning should

- a) Have need for information
- b) Be interested
- c) Be capable for learning
- d) Use of information gained

3. Subject matter or content

- a) Pertinent to learner's needs
- b) Applicable to real life situations
- c) Taught at intellectual level of learners
- d) Well organized and logically presented
- e) Presented clearly
- f) Challenging, satisfying and significant to the learners
- g) Fits into overall objectives

4. Physical Facilities

- a) Free from outside distractions
- b) Temperature as comfortable as possible
- c) Well lighted
- d) Adequate space for the group
- e) Furniture comfortable and well-arranged

5. Teaching equipment

- a) Meet the needs effectively.
- b) Readily available.
- c) Each item used skillfully.

The nature of each of these elements, their relationship to each other, their role in the educational process must be thoroughly understood by the instructor and skill developed by him in handling them. Effective learning situations are created through the skillful use of appropriate teaching methods and techniques.