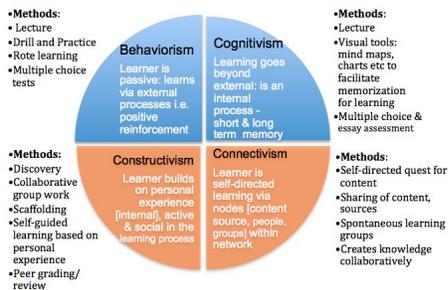


PROJECT FUSION

Purpose of Project: The purpose of this project is to expand the teaching ability in Indian high schools/middle schools to make the curriculum more interactive and effective in order to enhance students' understanding of the material provided. In return, teachers in America will be able to broaden their perspective on the positives of different types of teaching, which would help learning systems in America.

Background: Indian schools are known for taking part in what's known as the rote learning system. Although it can be beneficial in some cases, there are also numerous reasons interactive analytical understanding is more valuable. According to the Quality Education Study, the Wipro and Educational Initiative found staggering data amongst students in 89 of the India's top schools:

1. Nearly half the students in classes 4, 6 and 8 thought the shape of a square object would change if it is tilted.
2. About 45 percent of students in these classes seemed to believe that a spider has six legs, despite the arthropod being described or named as 'eight-legged' in almost all Indian languages.
3. Children in primary and upper primary classes show "lower sensitivity" and "demonstrate lack of progressive thought" on issues related to gender equality, acceptance of diversity and in civic responsibilities.



Essentially, the study shows that “rote learning is often deceptive and passes off as apparent learning, but does not let students develop higher order thinking skills such as critical thinking, creativity and application. Students who do not develop these skills also will not be able to think rationally and discriminate between what is good or bad in various social and ecological issues being faced today.”

In contrast, schools in Irvine Unified School District encourage more interactive understanding that fosters engagement and high level learning within schools. According to the IUSD 2018 School Accountability Report Card, schools had a 95.5% graduation rate from 2016-2017, 66.41% of students in IUSD exceeded or met standards in Language Arts CAASPP testing and 60.62% of students in IUSD exceeded or met standards in Math CAASPP testing. In

order to earn these impressive credentials, IUSD has trained teachers and staff to implement discussions, debates, group projects, and more to encourage hands-on interactive education.

According to the University of Central Florida, by helping students completely understand the curriculum, teachers are able to encourage students to:

1. Convert ideas and concepts into their own words
2. Use their own words to explain ideas clearly to someone else
3. Apply ideas to real life situations or case studies
4. Seek connections between knowledge from the classroom and the outside world
5. Identify differences, similarities between ideas and the implications of these ideas
6. Accept that there may be more than one "right" answer to a question depending on circumstances.
7. See meaning, effects, results, and consequences beyond the basic idea or concept.

Ultimately, the impact of rote learning systems leave more harm than good on students, evidently leaving them to become lost or confused in school and independent life. However, students that are taught under active learning techniques that are heavily dependent on interactive projects and discussions prove to become far more successful than the former.

Action Plan: In order to add to the benefits of the rote based learning system, we are launching PROJECT FUSION. Through this project, teachers in America will help teachers in India to gain more insight on the effectiveness of interactive and hands-on teaching on students. In return, teachers in America will be able to broaden their perspective on the positives of different types of teaching, which could help learning systems in America. During these virtual sessions, teachers will gain more knowledge on interactive analytic learning, which they will be able to use to help students implement the skills they learn in school to be used in the real world, such as leadership, responsibility, critical thinking and planning. These skills will be developed through hands-on activities and lessons involving debates and direct involvement in learning (hand raising strategies, 3 table discussions, challenging projects, etc).

Ending Goal: Through this project, we hope to benefit Indian learning strategies and lessons to ultimately help teach students more interactive learning systems so that they may be able to gain and implement important real world skills to help them lead a strong and successful life. Each session will be approximately one hour a week.

SOURCES:

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