



THE ROLE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING LIFE SKILLS IN TEACHERS

SHIKHA PANDEY

RESEARCH SCHOLAR, DR. RAMMANOHAR LOHIA AVADH UNIVERSITY, AYODHAYA.

ABSTRACT:

-

KEYWORDS:

-

INTRODUCTION

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, a multidisciplinary approach in education is emerging as a powerful mean to broaden intellectual horizons. Multidisciplinary approach is a pedagogical strategy that integrates knowledge and methodology from multiple disciplines to provide a comprehensive understanding of a particular topic or issue. This approach emphasizes collaboration and communication among experts from various fields to address complex problems and foster holistic learning experiences. By drawing on the strengths of diverse disciplines, the multidisciplinary approach aims to promote critical thinking, creativity and innovation while preparing teachers and students to navigate the interconnected world of the 21st century.

The multidisciplinary approach in education is characterized by several key features that distinguish it from other pedagogical approaches. One of the key aspects of the multidisciplinary approach is the integration of knowledge and methodologies from different academic fields, such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, social sciences and humanities. By combining insights from various disciplines educators can offer a more comprehensive understanding of complex issues. This approach encourages teamwork and collaboration among experts from different disciplines. This approach seeks to cultivate critical thinking in students as well as in teachers. This approach promotes holistic learning experiences.

Examples of multidisciplinary education are STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). This education integrates concepts and practices from multiple disciplines to promote creativity, innovation and problem solving skills among students. Global studies programs and project based learning initiatives also adopt a multidisciplinary approach.

World Health Organization (WHO, 1997) has defined life skills as the abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour

that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.' The word adaptive suggests that an individual adopts a versatile and flexible approach and has the ability to adjust in different circumstances. The word 'positive behaviour' indicates an optimistic and constructive outlook and working productively and hopefully in difficult circumstances to find solutions. The WHO (1997) listed ten life skills which are self awareness, critical thinking, creative thinking, empathy, decision making, problem solving, effective communication, interpersonal relationships, coping with stress and managing emotions. Life Skills are the capacities that enhance the mental and social well beings of individuals and prepare them to face the challenges of life.

Critical thinking is an important life skill. It is the ability to analyze information and experiences impartially. This skill enables individuals to identify and assess factors that shape their attitudes and behaviours such as personal values, peer influences and media. Application of critical thinking is a vital skill. This skill relies on six important questions of who, what, where, when, why and how. An individual is able to think rationally about a particular situation by understanding the answers of these questions.

DISCUSSION

Teachers play a very important role in shaping the future of our nation. In the present time teachers should be equipped with innovative and new trends of teaching like multidisciplinary approach so as to enable themselves as well as the students to think critically and creativity. The multidisciplinary approach in teaching and learning implies different methodologies from several disciplines in order to produce a more comprehensive and linked learning experience. This method helps in understanding how knowledge is connected, which enhances critical thinking, problem solving and use of knowledge in various contexts.

Multidisciplinary approach promotes many qualities in

teachers as well as in students like collaboration and teamwork, holistic learning, problem solving, creativity, comprehensive understanding, critical thinking, versatility and futuristic advancements.

Multidisciplinary approach in education plays a very significant role in incorporating critical thinking life skill in teachers in the following way-

1. Teachers exposed to multiple fields can approach problems with a more comprehensive understanding. For example incorporating insights from psychology, sociology and technology into teaching enables them to view challenges holistically and adapt solutions creatively.
2. By integrating knowledge from various subjects, teachers can analyze issues from multiple angles, compare different methodologies and weigh their relative merits. This deepens their critical thinking as they learn to evaluate and synthesize.
3. Multidisciplinary approach encourages teachers to reflect on their methodologies and consider alternative methods. This fosters a reflective mindset that is central to critical thinking.
4. Engaging with diverse fields such as STEM (Science, technology, engineering, Mathematics), arts and humanities enhances teachers analytical skills. In this way critical thinking is developed in teachers.
5. This approach cultivates cognitive flexibility, thereby shifting perspectives, connecting unrelated ideas and solving complex problems. This flexibility is essential for critical thinking.
6. Engaging with varied disciplines promotes creativity. Teachers are more likely to develop innovative strategies for classroom challenges integrating ideas that encourage critical thinking.

A Multidisciplinary approach in education provides a diverse range of knowledge and skills, allowing the teachers as well as the students to solve complex problems from multiple angles. This approach prepares teachers and students for the challenges of 21st century by providing vast range of knowledge and skills, nurturing a holistic insight of complex issues.

The implementation of multidisciplinary approach in education faces many challenges like-

1. One main obstacle is the scarcity of resources in educational institutions.

2. The absence of skilled faculty and up-to-date equipments also hampers development and implementation of multidisciplinary approach in education.

3. The nature of the existing curriculum and resources is such that this approach is difficult to be accomplished.

4. One of the challenges is the inadequacy of proper infrastructure including latest technology and interactive learning environment.

5. One of the limitations is that this approach is time consuming and requires a lot of efforts and skills.

6. Another challenge is posed by conventional educational systems which have been deeply embedded in subject specific and segmented learning approaches.

7. A major limitation is that teachers, students, parents & other stakeholders are lacking in awareness regarding the benefits and significance of this approach & thus hindering its implementation.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that a multidisciplinary approach in education plays a vital role in the development of critical thinking life skills in teachers. This approach not only broadens teachers' perspectives but also enables them to apply diverse strategies to address complex challenges. In this way teachers become better equipped to foster a learning environment that encourages critical thinking and analytical, reflective and independent mindset. In this way teachers are transformed into facilitators who are well prepared to face the challenges of modern world.

REFERENCES

1. L and Wani, G (2024): Multidisciplinary and holistic education: Achieving academic excellence and bolstering all round development in the 21st century with NEP 2020. International Journal of Indian Psychology, 12(1) 172-177 <http://doi.org 10.25215/1201.017>
2. Sharma H (2022): A study of life skill training among adolescents in Delhi. [Doctoral dissertation, Jamia Millia Islamia University Shodhganga. <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/542245>.
3. Understanding the multidisciplinary approach in education. <https://learningcorner.com>