

FLIPPED CLASSROOMS IN EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Flipped classroom is a pedagogical strategy of giving interactive learning environment by the educators. Here the students apply pre-learned concepts and engage in creative activities of the subject matters in the classrooms. This article tries to explain the flipped classroom, benefits of flipped classroom and its challenges. It is called flipped because lower level of remembering, acquisition of knowledge and understanding of concepts happens outside the class and the higher level of learning, cognition, learning with peers and creativity are developed inside the class.

KEYWORDS: *Flipped Classroom, Pedagogical Strategy, Interactive Learning and Cognition.*

INTRODUCTION

The flipped classroom concept was proposed by Jonathan Bergmann and Aaron Sams in the year 2012. This teaching strategy needs extra planning, recording, sharing of concepts and subject matters on part of educators. They must prepare in-depth the subjects, provide opportunities for the students to express themselves freely. Students can perform a task, write a poem, do experiment or project, a role play, make a video, power point presentation, slide share etc..., It is a kind of reversing the traditional model of classroom by enhancing the class time learning activities and doing the lecture by online or out of classroom. Interaction between members and informal learning are the two pillars of the flipped classroom.

MODELS OF THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM

Rotation model, flex model, enriched virtual model are some of the flipped classroom models. Standard inverted classroom, micro flipped classroom, demonstrated based flipped classroom, faux flipped classroom, virtual flipped classroom, role reversal are some of the types of flipped classroom. Screen casting tools such as Camtasia, screen cast-o-metric, Snagit, Screen castify are used in flipped instruction. Video tools such as Edpuzzle, playposit, testeach, class flow are also used. Some softwares such as Audio/ video narration, Sheppard software, wonderopolis are also used.

REPLACEMENT OF LECTURES

Lectures and instructional materials are sent as videos for the students to consume beforehand. Students use their class time to apply their knowledge which is facilitated by the teachers. In this way the classroom time is utilized creatively and boredom lectures are replaced with creative and fun filled activities. With flipped classroom, the role of teachers are listed as advisors, counsellor, guide, facilitator or instructional designer. The students act as a proactive researchers, inquirers, active learners and knowledge constructors.

MORE ACCESSIBLE CONTENTS

Videos and lectures are available at all times for the students to learn at their own space. This also helps students who miss the classes due to various reasons to cope up with their studies. This in turn helps the teachers to relax because they need not repeat the lectures again and again in the classroom. Parents also can access the contents 24/7 if they wish. It gives them awareness about the quality of instruction their children receive.

FLEXIBILITY

Students are allowed to choose from a variety of learning modes. They can do group work, independent study, assignments, projects, models, experiments etc. Students can even choose their convenient time and place for learning. The educators themselves are flexible in their expectations of students regarding the time they take to complete their learning and demonstrate mastery in a particular concept.

LEARNER CENTRED APPROACH

Unlike traditional teacher centred approach where the teacher is the only source of information, in the flipped model, the time is dedicated to the learners to explore the concepts deeply and gives rich learning environment. Thus students are able to construct more knowledge and participate actively in the learning process and master in subject matter. Busy and struggling students are also helped. Students with diverse abilities are given opportunities to bring out their best. Flipped classrooms give opportunities and promotes higher order thinking skills.

STRESSING THE CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Students are given opportunities to understand the concepts on their own in their own pace. The educators create relevant contents in the form of videos, projects are assessments. Educators even cater the contents according to the learning abilities of students. Thus active learning is enhanced in the classroom.

EDUCATORS ARE PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

During class time the professional educators must be more vigilant, observe the students closely, give them guidance continuously, give them feedback then and there, and assess their work promptly. They connect with other educators to develop their instructions. They are ready to accept criticism from co-workers. They must be able to tolerate chaos and confusions among the students in giving them guidance. Educators continuously assess their students learning and record them to modify their future instructions. They are flexible in collaborating with other educators.

CHALLENGES OF THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM

Time spent in online content is increased which takes away the people and places from students. It needs extra preparedness on the part of educators. Students with special needs need extra guidance by the instructors. Common public examination pattern cannot be followed by the students. Students are burdened with prior learning materials. Self-directed learning skills and internal motivation are needed on part of the learners. All the parents cannot be supportive to their children. Not suitable for all types of students.

CONCLUSION

Students feel comfortable with this method because of the online resources and self paced learning, they enjoy the classroom more and not felt boredom. Planning creatively, content distribution and creativity are the keys for a flipped classroom. Students dropping out can be decreased in flipped classroom. Future educators can be given training in using flipped classroom so that a better teaching and learning community can be developed. A better learning outcome would be possible.

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