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PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTING PROJECT METHOD

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Abstract:

Developing the ability to reach generalizations and to apply them for solving everyday problem, developing the habit of observation, exploration, classification and systematic way of thinking that will help in enhancing the power of manipulative, creative and inventive future citizen is the aim of today's education. To fulfill this aim it is essential to use variety methods and techniques in teaching. Keeping this in view, variety of teaching techniques has already been introduced in the curriculum. The inclusion of project assignments in school study is one of the important tasks. The use of project method is obligatory as it is based on the principle of 'learning by doing'.

The present research is aimed at locating the problems faced by the teachers as well as students while implementation of the project method in school. The present research also explores the various areas of difficulty faced by teachers who are teaching to primary and secondary class and the students of these classes. The researcher felt that this study would be helpful for getting idea about current situation and the ways to solve or minimize the problems faced by the teachers as well as the students so as to fulfill the set learning objectives in a better way.

KEY WORDS:

Implementing , Method , Developing , Observation.

INTRODUCTION

The ability to learn is one of the most outstanding human characteristics. Learning occurs continuously throughout a person's lifetime. To define learning, it is necessary to analyze what happens to the individual. An individual's way of perceiving, thinking, feeling, and doing may change as a result of a learning experience. Thus, learning may involve complex intellectual or attitudinal changes which affect behavior in more subtle ways.

There are three important elements of teaching at primary and secondary school level as-

Encouragement for participatory teaching learning in such a way that every child gets opportunity to actively interact with the teacher and the with the classmates

· Promotion of creative activities in classroom in such a manner that students are encouraged to express themselves through writing and art activities

· Promotion of collective activities of children in such a way that children develop team spirit, collective cooperation and productive project work

In order to develop various skills such as reading, writing, drawing and competencies like creativity,

problem solving it is necessary to use various teaching methods. Now-a day use of project method become compulsory at school level. Project method is based on the principal of 'learning to do'. This method is useful to inculcate self study skills and many other essential capabilities such as reasoning, observing, analyzing, critical and creative thinking etc.

So, the researcher was interested in studying the actual problems faced by teachers as well as students in implementing the projects in school.

NEED OF RESEARCH:

The developing countries are required to catch up with the developed world. Development does not mean merely economic development but is also includes development of inner qualities of man and quality of life. In this context, education has a major role to play, Education that promotes quality of life, motivation of action and productivity, and optimum utilization of scarce resources is ideal for development.

Developing the ability to reach generalizations and to apply them for solving everyday problem, developing the habit of observation, exploration, classification and systematic way of thinking that will help in enhancing the power of manipulative, creative and inventive future citizen is the aim of today's education. To fulfill this aim it is essential to use variety methods and techniques in teaching. Keeping this in view, variety of teaching techniques has already been introduced in the curriculum. The inclusion of project assignments in school study is one of the important tasks. The use of project method is obligatory as it is based on the principle of 'learning by doing'.

It has been observed that when the projects are assigned to the students the parents are engaged in completing them by their own for gathering the good marks forgetting that the projects are assigned to their child for increasing the essential abilities like problem solving, analyzing, observing, concluding and interpreting etc. Therefore, the researcher felt that it is indispensable to study the various problems that the teachers and students are confronting in implementing the project method in schools.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RESEARCH STUDY:

National Curriculum Framework 2005 recommended that learning and knowledge formation should be done 1.through observation 2.through curiosity and 3.through problem solving

According to continuous and comprehensive evaluation 2010 Government made compulsion on assigning project to the primary students. It was stated that each child has to complete at least one project in any one subject in a year.

Project method is based on the various principles such as: Self learning, Brainstorming, Higher thinking ability, problem solving, learning by doing, Social awareness, and development of various skills such as communication, observation, analysis, conclusion, interpretation, evaluation etc. This helps in achieving the ultimate aim of education i.e. all round development of children.

The present research study would help to know various problems that the teachers and students are facing in implementing the project method and would help to get remedial suggestions to minimize the problems so as to achieve the above competencies with full proficiency.

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH STUDY:

To Study the Problems in Implementing Project Method in School

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS IN THE TERM:

Study: Study in the present research indicates the gathering of detailed information regarding the problems in implementing Project method in school

Problems: difficulties faced by the teachers and students of primary and secondary school in implementing the project method in different subjects such as science, Geography and Environmental studies

Implementation: Execution of the project work assign to students in the school

Project Method: A project method of teaching is a problematic act carried to completion in its natural setting or it is a whole hearted purposeful act completed in natural setting

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH:

·To study the problems of teachers in implementing project method in school

PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTING PROJECT METHOD



- To study problems of students in carrying projects at school level
- To study the opinions of the teacher regarding implementing the project method at primary and secondary level
- To collect remedial suggestions from the teachers regarding the implementation of project method

ASSUMPTIONS:

- The teachers are facing problems in implementing the project method at school level
- The students are facing problems in carrying out the given projects
- There are solutions to minimized the problems

RESEARCH METHOD:

In the present research study the researcher has selected 'Survey method'.

TOOLS USED FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA:

Following tools were used for the collection of data-

- Questionnaire
- Opinionnaire

SAMPLE SELECTION:

The researcher has purposefully selected subject teachers (Science, Geography and EVS) and their students

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY:

The sample selected for the present research study were 30 teachers and 450 students of primary and secondary class (Std.VII, VIII, and IX) of 10 Marathi medium schools located in Pune city who were implementing projects in Science, Geography and EVS in school

PROCEDURE OF THE RESEARCH:

- 1.Selection and finalizing the research topic
- 2.Review of related literature
- 3.Stating the objectives and hypothesis of the research study
- 4.Selecting the research design
- 5.Sample selection
- 6.Preparation of the questionnaire and opinionnaire for teachers and students
- 7.Collection of the data from the sample
- 8.Analysis and Interpretation of the collected data
- 9.Drawing conclusion
- 10.Report writing

SCOPE:

The present research study is helpful to the primary and secondary teachers in Maharashtra state who are using project method as a part of syllabus. It is compulsory for the primary and secondary teachers who are teaching subjects like Science, Mathematics, Social sciences, EVS etc. The present research study aimed to study the problems faced by teachers, students as well as parents. The researcher has collected the data of problems faced by teachers in selecting, assigning, implementing and analyzing the projects. The researcher felt that knowing the various problems faced by the teachers and students may help in solving and minimizing the problems by getting actual picture regarding the problems.

LIMITATIONS:

The present researcher study is restricted to study of problems related to the implementation of the

projects in primary school

DELIMITATIONS

The present research study was

1. Conducted on the teachers and students of standard VII and VIII
2. Conducted on Marathi medium schools
3. Restricted to ten schools (selected randomly) in Pune city
4. Restricted to the schools that run the syllabus prescribed by the SCERT

FINDINGS:

The researcher has found that:

- Almost all the teachers use project method every year and make changes according to the age and the capacity of the students in different subjects.
- 90.91% teachers assigned the group projects in primary classes and formed the group according to the interests and ability of the student.
- 81.82% teachers agree that they make use of project method in the school and they plan for group and individual projects on their subject. They try to involve all the students in the class.
- 75% teachers agree that due to time limit they are unable to provide opportunity to each student for presentation of the project in front of the whole class.
- 75% teachers agree that this method is best suitable to primary level
- 72.73% teachers agree that the teachers decided the topic and assign the project to the students
- 63.64 % teachers make use of Sociometry technique while selecting the members of the group. It was also observed that teachers are guidelines were given in the curriculum for each subjects and the teachers were also received guidance regarding the project method in the in-service training programmes. 63.64% teachers opinion that this method is useful to inculcate self learning habit among the students

The researcher found that the students opinioned that:

- 84% teachers assign the projects without providing essential information regarding it. They only assign the projects and ask to submit the same on allotted time. So, the students have to take help of their parents who in turn does the project as per their own understanding. This affects on the less interest and motivation among the children.
- 75% students have opinion that in group projects they hardly get opportunity to work according to their interest even though teachers give them different projects.
- Sometimes teachers guide them but in a limited time and limited areas

CONCLUSIONS:

On the basis of above observation it can be concluded that

The teachers are conducting the projects every year and also tried to provide equal opportunity to each student in the class. They make use of individual and group projects, change the topics every year and guide the student wherever possible but they have their own limitations such as extra work other than teaching, limited time, pressure of completing the given syllabus in allotted time. Sometimes it was also noticed that the teachers who are teaching the subjects have less experience and content knowledge about their subject. It was also noticed that the teaching learning process in our education system has become examination oriented.

These are the main problems in implementing the project method which directly or indirectly affects the learning of the students.

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