

Connecting knowledge and skills through experiential learning- vision of NEP 2020

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Abstract

National Education Policy (NEP, 2020) gives immense stress on providing experiential learning through hands-on experience to students. Knowledge should relate to skills through proper experiences in the classroom. The study is qualitative with an objective to explore the need for experiential learning in classrooms with reference to NEP 2020. After thorough analysis of the available literature and from the personal experiences, the investigator concluded that experiential learning helps in different ways namely, closing the gap in achievement of learning outcomes, imbibing Indian ethos, preserving language and artistic treasure, continuous professional development, teaching of languages, critical thinking and academic enquiry. The result of the study is helpful to the teachers and administrators to help students through experiential learning in the teaching-learning process. The analysis of the study gives various practices of hands-on experiences and their benefits.

Keywords: NEP 2020, experiential learning, skills

Introduction

Experiential learning is adopted in all stages along with exploration of relationship among allied subjects. Various activities of experiential learning as envisaged by National Education Policy, 2020 are, “hands-on learning”, “arts-integrated and sports-integrated education”, and “story-telling-based pedagogy”. “Learning by doing” is encouraged through experiential learning where students reflect on their own experience related to daily life situations. “Experiential learning activities can include, but are not limited to, hands-on laboratory experiments, internships, practicums, field exercises, study abroad, undergraduate research and studio performances” (NEP, 2020).

Kolb’s (1984) ^[3] has given the process of experiential learning which includes the combination of:

- **Knowledge:** The knowledge, principles, information and facts students receive through experience in a formal learning situation.
- **Activity:** This is the practical side of applying the knowledge acquired in the real-world setting.
- **Reflection:** The process of critically evaluating and analysing the acquired information and activity to create a path of new knowledge.

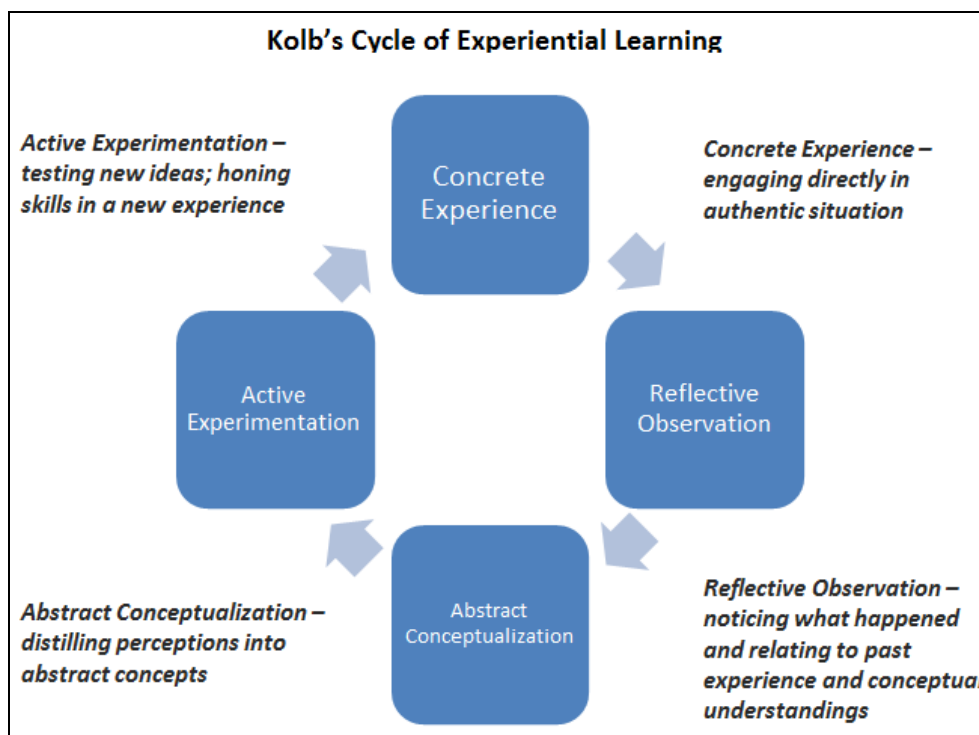


Image Courtesy: <https://www.structural-learning.com/post/kolbs-learning-cycle>

Fig 1

Scope of the study

The National Education Policy, 2020 has given detailed overview of experiential learning and its importance in the classroom for better achievement among students. Glimpses of how to implement experiential learning and its advantages have also been a part of discussion in the NEP 2020 document. After going through the document of NEP 2020, there arose a need for much more understanding of the implementation of experiential learning in the classroom. There is a need to clarify that at what levels experiential learning help learners in the classroom. in order to fill this gap, the researcher took effort to make an in-depth analysis on how experiential learning connects knowledge and skills.

Major objective

- To explore the need for experiential learning in classrooms with reference to NEP 2020.

Qualitative analysis

Closing the gap in achievement of learning outcomes

In the present system of education, we could see a gap in the satisfaction of the formulated objectives of curriculum. The success of any student is judged based on the achievement in the concerned subject. are used with the same meaning. Competency based education is very much essential to enhance the learning outcomes. Experiential learning bridges the gap in achievement of learning outcomes (NEP, 2020). Joyful atmosphere in the classroom is a motivation and reinforcement for students. students in our classrooms are sometimes struggling to attain the concepts that do not pertain to the real-life situations. With experiential learning, students are getting opportunities to apply the concepts and ideas in the real-world situation and interact with the environment.

Imbibing Indian Ethos

According to NEP, 2020, teachers should provide personal values and traditional Indian values to students. Logical framework should be provided to students by teachers for ethical decision making. Ethos indicates the morality or the moral standard of the society. There are some expected standards in our social and personal life. Practicing Indian ethos can contribute to the development of culture and leadership. Indian ethos is rooted in values which is based on "Sanatana Dharma" (Eternal Essence) and is under the influence of various Indian Philosophy. It has become an essential need in the current scenario to experience the values, culture, tradition, and legacy of our country. Students are not able to understand and imbibe the culture of the country. They are confined to the multiple screens and created an illusionary world of their own which has nothing to do with actual life situations. Students are running away from problems instead of facing it. Experiential learning through art-integrated approach is strengthening the bond between the culture of the country and the present system of Education.

Preserving language and artistic treasure

According to NEP, 2020, all students will have the option to learn classical Indian languages for at least two years along with associated literature through experiential learning. Preservation of languages and artistic treasure are highly essential for the enrichment of the children. According to

NEP, 2020, this could be possible through innovative approaches, including the integration of technology. "India also has an extremely rich literature in other classical languages, including classical Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia" (NEP, 2020). Apart from these classical languages, we have a few languages like Pali, Persian, and Prakrit. Preserving the richness of these languages through their works of literature is essential for enrichment of prosperity. Our students need to explore classical Indian literature to imbibe and nourish the legacy of our tradition and along with their extensive and beautiful classical literature. Experiential learning with the support of innovative approaches and technical support will help to enrich the existing literature and languages and literature in their original form. Practical efforts will be done regarding the literature, tradition and culture of all other Indian languages.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

CPD of teachers could be made possible with the use of innovative pedagogies. Experiential learning helps to change content based learning to outcome based learning. Experiential learning includes latest pedagogies, assessment techniques, "arts-integrated", "sports-integrated", and "storytelling-based" approaches, etc. Teachers while using experiential learning is enriching their knowledge and expertise and helping the students to make a better outcome. It is through experiential learning the major technological advancements in the field of teaching learning process is being acquired by teachers which further help them for continuous professional development.

Teaching of languages

There are various innovative methods to enhance learning and acquisition of languages like games, apps, and activity aids like drama, story-telling, role play, music, humour and films which could connect learners to the real world. Hence, it can be concluded that language teaching is much more effective using experiential learning. The major problem in language education is that, we help the learners to learn the language rather acquire it. This hinders the attainment of fluency in communication among students. Experiential learning helps in the acquisition of language and the learners are completely immersed in the language when going through various apps, role plays, discussion, debate, collaborative activities etc.

Critical Thinking

Experiential learning has a direct correlation with critical thinking and creative literary. Developing critical thinking of every student is given much emphasis in all policies on Education. Experiential learning has the benefit of developing higher order thinking abilities along with numerical, literary, and foundational capacities. These capacities include critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Critical thinking fastens the development of social, emotional and ethical values and dispositions. Experiential learning helps to reduce the burden of rote memorization in each subject and gives space for developing creative faculties of students as they get more chance to think critically in a holistic way through enquiry, discussion, analysis and discovery method.

Academic Enquiry

Learning through inquiry is based on the active participation of students by completely involving themselves through raising questions and bringing real-life experiences to the classroom. Experiential learning paves way for the thinking process of students through questions and initiates them on "how to think" instead of "what to think". Exploring the real world by making connections through high level questions is achieved through experiential learning. Academic enquiry encourages learners to get involved themselves through experiential learning. Our world is an arena of much more happenings and experiential learning is such a window on the world which helps the learners to think in their own point of view beyond general curiosity into the world of understanding and critical thinking. Teachers should give enough space for the students to generate queries and support them in the process of learning.

Conclusion

While exploring the need for experiential learning with reference to NEP 2020, the researcher came across many fruitful advantages. The researcher explored many areas of importance of experiential learning in the real classroom situations which could definitely help students to develop creativity, critical thinking, interact with daily life situations and also better understanding of the concept. The major benefit is that, it helps to get rid of rote memorization which is a usual practice in most of the subjects of our classrooms.

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