



A Study of key elements of effective pedagogy in classroom and planning for teaching: The Panchpadi - Five steps learning process with special

Rajbir Kaur

Department of Education, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab, India

Abstract

This research paper examines the major elements that enable effective education in the classroom and target a transformative approach to teaching and learning in India, with special attention to the process of learning of Panchpadi-Five stages, a transformative approach to school education-2023 (NCF-2023), a transformative approach to teaching and learning in India. The Panchpadi presents the process, consisting of five stages -Aaditi (introduction), realization (conceptual understanding), Abhay (practice), prayer (application), and proliferation (expansion) -NCF -SE 2023. This study provides practical insight to practical insights and recommendations by examining Panchpadi -Five stages. The goal is to implement effective education combined with NCF-SE 2023, eventually increases educational results and creates a dynamic, inclusive and respectable learning environment for all students.

Keywords: Effective pedagogy, classroom, teaching national curriculum framework for school education-2023, panchpadi, learning process

Introduction

The National Curriculum Framework for School Education-2023 (NCF-SE 2023) provides a detailed roadmap for enhancing the effectiveness of pedagogy in Indian classrooms. This framework is built on principles that promote inclusive, equitable, and dynamic teaching practices. At its core is the Panchpadi-Five Steps Learning Process, which offers a structured approach to teaching and learning. This pervasive study explores the key elements that enable effective pedagogy and the importance of meticulous planning for teaching, all within the context of the NCF-SE 2023.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as under

- To outline and analyse the major elements that enable effective pedagogy in the classroom as per the NCF-SE 2023.
- To evaluate the impact of positive teacher-student relationships on student learning and engagement.
- To understand and detect the structure and implementation of the Panchpadi process, including Aaditi, Bodh, Abhyas, Prayog and Prasara.

Key Elements that Enable Effective Pedagogy in the Classroom

Effective pedagogy is not a one-size-fits-all approach but rather a multifaceted strategy that considers the diverse needs of students. The NCF-SE 2023 outlines several critical elements that contribute to effective teaching and learning.

1. Ensuring Respect and Care

Creating an environment of respect and care is foundational to effective pedagogy. Schools must be safe spaces where children feel secure and valued. This involves fostering relationships based on care, equity, and respect. Discrimination of any kind is unacceptable. Teachers must demonstrate empathy and responsibility, ensuring that all

students have equal access to learning opportunities. This caring environment encourages students to participate actively and reach their full potential. "Our schools are committed to providing an environment where children feel secure, and relationships are governed by care, equity, and respect. Any form of discrimination based on religion, caste, gender, community, beliefs, disability, or any other factor is unacceptable."- NCF-SE 2023, Page104

2. Building Positive Teacher-Student Relationships

A strong, positive relationship between teachers and students is essential for cognitive and socio-emotional development. Building these relationships involves

- a. **Individual Attention:** Getting to know each student individually helps in tailoring learning experiences.
- b. **Active Listening:** Listening to students conveys respect and builds trust.
- c. **Observational Insights:** Observing students provides insights into their thinking and behaviour.
- d. **Encouraging Responses:** Encouraging students to express themselves helps in nurturing their creativity.
- e. **Promoting Inquiry:** Encouraging questioning fosters deep thinking and engagement.
- f. **Emotional Support:** Recognizing and responding to students' emotions helps them learn better.
- g. **Gentle Discipline:** Addressing inappropriate behaviour with compassion rather than punishment is more effective. "If a student behaves inappropriately, the Teacher should have a range of strategies to handle it, starting with gentle, compassionate one-to one interaction to understand what might cause such behaviour. Most students respond much better to such

strategies than to scolding or punishment.”- NCF-SE 2023, Page-104

3. Providing Scaffolding

Scaffolding is a teaching strategy that involves providing support to students as they learn new concepts. This support is gradually removed as students become more proficient. “Scaffolding refers to providing support, structure, and guidance during instruction. Scaffolding differs depending on the task but occurs when the Teacher carefully assigns students a learning task and provides support along the way until gradually fading as the student reaches expertise.”- NCF-SE 2023, Page-104

4. Using Differentiated Instruction

Differentiated instruction tailors teaching to meet the diverse needs of students. This approach involves varying the content, methods, materials, and assessments based on individual student needs. In large classes, teachers can create groups with similar needs and provide tailored resources and activities.

5. Providing Opportunities for Independent and Collaborative Work

Both independent and collaborative work are important in the learning process. Teachers should structure these activities to ensure meaningful participation and learning. “Working with others often increases involvement in learning. Sharing one’s own ideas and responding to others’ reactions improves thinking, deepens understanding, and also leads to new insights and ideas. In carefully crafted collaborative learning situations, students require each other’s contributions to successfully complete a learning task because of which they need to learn to take on varied roles, such as observers, mediators, score managers, and note-takers based on the objectives of the task.”- NCF-SE 2023, Page-106

Panchpadi -The Five-Step Learning Process

The Panchpadi-Five Steps Learning Process provides a structured approach to teaching that aligns with the NCF-SE 2023. This process includes five steps- Aditi (Introduction), Bodh (Conceptual Understanding), Abhyas (Practice), Prayog (Application), and Prasar (Expansion).

1. Aditi (Introduction)

The first step, Aditi, involves introducing a new concept or topic by connecting it to the students’ prior knowledge. Teachers facilitate the gathering of relevant information through questioning, exploration, and experimentation. “Aditi (Introduction): As a first step, the Teacher introduces a new concept/topic by establishing a connection with the child’s prior knowledge. Children gather relevant information regarding the new topic with the help of the Teacher by asking questions, exploring, and experimenting with ideas and material.”- NCF-SE 2023, Page-107

2. Bodh (Conceptual Understanding)

In the second step, Bodh, students deepen their understanding of core concepts through play, inquiry, experiments, discussions, and reading. Teachers observe and guide students during this process, ensuring that the teaching plan includes a list of concepts to be learned. “Bodh (Conceptual Understanding): Children try to

understand core concepts through play, inquiry, experiment, discussion, or reading in the second step. The Teacher observes the process and guides the children. The teaching plan has the list of concepts to be learnt by the children.”- NCF-SE 2023, Page-107

3. Abhyas (Practice)

The third step, Abhyas, focuses on practice to reinforce understanding and skills. This involves engaging students in a range of activities, including group work and small projects, to strengthen their conceptual understanding and competencies. “Abhyas (Practice): The third step is about practice to strengthen understanding and skills through a range of interesting activities. Teachers can organise group work or small projects to reinforce conceptual understanding and attainment of Competencies.”- NCF-SE 2023, Page-107

4. Prayog (Application)

Prayog, the fourth step, emphasizes applying the acquired knowledge in real-life situations. This can be achieved through various activities and projects that relate to students’ everyday experiences. “Prayog (Application): The fourth step is about applying the acquired understanding in the child’s everyday life. This can be accomplished through various activities and small projects.”- NCF-SE 2023, Page-107

5. Prasar (Expansion)

The final step, Prasar, involves spreading and enhancing the acquired understanding. This includes peer learning through conversations, storytelling, singing, reading together, and playing games. Engaging with related materials and experiences further strengthens learning. Teaching others what they have learned solidifies students’ knowledge and makes it long-lasting. “Prasar (Expansion): The fifth step is about spreading the acquired understanding (pravachan) and using other resources to learn further (swadhyay). Pravachan is largely mediated through peer learning — conversations with friends, telling each other new stories, singing new songs, reading new books together, and playing new games with each other. Swadhyay is mediated through engaging with materials and experiences related to learning. For each and every new topic learnt, a neural pathway is created in our brain. Sharing and enhancing knowledge strengthens our learning. A neural pathway is incomplete if we do not teach what we have learnt. Teaching makes learning clear and long-lasting.”- NCF-SE 2023, Page-107

Challenges

Despite the robust framework provided by the NCF-SE 2023 and the structured approach of the Panchpadi-Five Steps Learning Process, several challenges may hinder the effective implementation of these principles in classrooms.

1. Resource Constraints

Many schools, particularly in rural and underserved areas, face a lack of basic resources, including trained teachers, adequate learning materials, and technological tools. This limitation can impede the application of varied resources and differentiated instruction as outlined in the NCF-SE 2023.

2. Teacher Training and Professional Development

Effective implementation of the Panchpadi process requires teachers to be well-versed in its principles and practices. However, there is often a gap in continuous professional development and training programs that equip teachers with the necessary skills and knowledge.

3. Classroom Size and Diversity

Managing large and diverse classrooms can be challenging. Differentiating instruction and providing individual attention in such settings require significant effort and innovative strategies, which may be difficult for teachers to consistently apply.

4. Assessment and Feedback

Providing prompt and meaningful feedback is crucial but can be time-consuming. In large classes, ensuring that each student receives individualized feedback that is constructive and timely can be a substantial challenge.

5. Student Engagement

Engaging students in both individual and collaborative work requires careful planning and execution. Students' varying levels of interest and motivation can affect the success of these activities.

6. Parental and Community Involvement

For the Panchpadi process to be fully effective, involvement from parents and the community is essential. However, fostering such engagement can be difficult due to various socio-economic factors and a lack of awareness or interest.

Way Forward

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that involves stakeholders at all levels of the education system. The following strategies can help overcome these obstacles and pave the way for effective implementation of the NCF-SE 2023 and the Panchpadi process:

- 1. Enhanced Funding and Resource Allocation:** Governments and educational organizations should allocate more funds to improve infrastructure, provide necessary learning materials, and integrate technology in classrooms. Special attention should be given to under-resourced schools to bridge the gap.
- 2. Continuous Professional Development:** Establishing robust training programs and ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers is critical. These programs should focus on the principles of the Panchpadi process, differentiated instruction, and effective classroom management strategies.
- 3. Innovative Classroom Management:** Use of technology and innovative pedagogical strategies can help manage large and diverse classrooms. For instance, digital tools can facilitate differentiated instruction and provide interactive and engaging learning experiences.
- 4. Student-Centred Learning Approaches**
Implementing student-centred approaches that cater to different learning styles and interests can enhance

engagement. Activities that integrate real-life applications and interactive learning can motivate students and improve participation.

- 5. Strengthening Community and Parental Involvement:** Schools should actively work to involve parents and the community in the educational process. This can be achieved through regular communication, workshops, and collaborative projects that highlight the importance of their role in students' education.
- 6. Policy Support and Advocacy:** Strong policy support from educational authorities and advocacy for the principles outlined in the NCF-SE 2023 can bring systemic changes. Policies should support the implementation of the Panchpadi process and provide necessary resources and training. By addressing these challenges and adopting these strategies, the vision of the NCF-SE 2023 can be achieved, leading to improved educational outcomes and a more dynamic, inclusive, and effective learning environment for all students.

Conclusion

The National Curriculum Framework for School Education-2023 highlights the importance of creating a respectful and caring classroom environment, building positive teacher-student relationships, providing scaffolding and differentiated instruction, and offering opportunities for independent and collaborative work. It also emphasizes the use of varied resources, developing appropriate work habits and responsibility, and giving prompt and meaningful feedback. Effective pedagogy requires careful planning, incorporating competencies, learning outcomes, lesson objectives, activities, prior understanding, content, duration, classroom arrangements, strategies for extra help, and assessment methods. The Panchpadi-Five Steps Learning Process provides a comprehensive framework for structuring teaching and learning, ensuring that students acquire and apply knowledge effectively. By adhering to these principles and processes, educators can create enriching and effective learning environments that cater to the diverse needs of students, ultimately leading to improved educational outcomes.

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