# Concept to Mind Map – A Best Practice in Higher Education Institutions to Improve the Learning Ability of Students

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## ABSTRACT

Higher education has become highly competitive and challenging. Educational institutions are facing competition in order to survive and to improve the quality of education. Best practices in higher education institutions enhance quality of teaching and add value to their services. This approach attempts to explain the application part of a particular concept first. The teacher should explain the application of a particular concept first and explain the effects of such applications. Mind map can be used by teachers to explain concepts in an innovative way. They are much quicker to make and much easier to remember and review because of their visual quality and applications of concept in solving real world problems. In this approach we attempt to explain the application part of a particular concept first by giving real world application before starting the particular topic and explain the effects of such applications. So that students develop interest to learn that topic. This paper elaborates underlying principles and concepts, challenging issues that have to be addressed in designing and implementing the practices and its implementation, evidence of success, identifying the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice.

**Keywords :** Mind map, Z to A

## I. INTRODUCTION:

Education is a light that shows the mankind the right direction to surge. The purpose of education is not just making a student literate but adds rationale thinking, knowledge ability and self sufficiency. When there is a willingness to change, there is hope for progress in any field. Creativity can be developed and innovation benefits both students and teachers. Education is a light that shows the mankind the right direction to surge. If education fails to inculcate self-discipline and commitment to achieve in the minds of student, it is not their fault. We have to convert education into a sport and learning process has to generate interest in

the students and motivate them to stay back in the institution than to run away from it. Education should become a fun and thrill to them rather than burden and boredom. It is an integral part of their growth and helps them become good citizens. Education is an engine for the growth and progress of any society. It not only imparts knowledge, skills and inculcates values, but is also responsible for building human capital which breeds, drives and sets technological innovation and economic growth. In today's era, information and knowledge stand out as very important and critical input for growth and survival. Rather than looking at education simply as a means of achieving social upliftment, the society must view education also as an engine of advancement in an information era propelled by its wheels of knowledge and research leading to development.

The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the traditional methods of teaching as well as innovative aching and to suggest other useful teaching methods that can be attempted in imparting knowledge to the students. Basically teaching must include two major components sending and receiving information. Ultimately, a teacher tries his best to impart knowledge as the way he understood it. So, any communication methods that serve this purpose without destroying the objective could be considered as innovative methods of teaching. The use of innovative methods in educational institutions has the potential not only to improve education, but also to empower people, strengthen governance and galvanize the effort to achieve the human development goal for the country.

## II.   METHODOLOGY

The traditional or innovative methods of teaching are critically examined, evaluated and some modifications in the delivery of knowledge is suggested. As such, the strengths and weaknesses of each teaching methodology are identified and probable modifications that can be included in traditional methods are suggested.

## III.   TRADITIONAL TEACHING METHOD – AN EVALUATION

In the pre-technology education context, the teacher is the sender or the source, the educational material is the information or message, and the student is the receiver of the information. In terms of the delivery medium, the educator can deliver the message via the "chalk-and- talk" method and overhead projector (OHP) transparencies.

Some limitations which may prevail in traditional teaching method are

- Teaching in classroom using chalk and talk is "one way flow" of information.

- Teachers often continuously talk for an hour without knowing students response and feedback.

- The material presented is only based on lecturer notes and textbooks.

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- Teaching and learning are concentrated on "plug and play" method rather than practical aspects.

- There is insufficient interaction with students in classroom.

- More emphasis has been given on theory without any practical and real life time situations.

- Learning from memorization but not understanding.

- Marks rather than result oriented.

## IV. INNOVATIVE TOOLS SUGGESTED

Basically the core objective of teaching should never be deviated by the use of an innovative method. The following method is suggested as an extension to the traditional methods of teaching.

### (a) MIND MAP

Mind map can be used by teachers to explain concepts in an innovative way. They are much quicker to make and much easier to remember and review because of their visual quality.

Mind Maps are also very quick to review, as it is easy to refresh information in your mind just by glancing once. Mind Maps can also be effective mnemonics and remembering their shape and structure can provide the cues necessary to remember the information within it. They engage much more of the brain in the process of assimilating and connecting facts than conventional notes.

The key notion behind mind mapping is that we learn and remember more effectively by using the full range of visual and sensory tools at our disposal. Pictures, music, colour, even touch and smell play a part in our learning armoury will help to recollect information for long time. The key is to build up mind maps that make the most of these things building on our own creativity, thinking and cross linking between ideas that exist in our own minds.

As the recent research point that any particular information explained with the help of graph charts make a high impact in the minds of the people and keeping this as the core aspect the teachers may try to picturize the concepts and show the same to the students

(b) Z TO A APPROACH

This approach attempts to explain the application part of a particular concept first. The teacher should explain the application of a particular concept first by giving real world application before starting the particular topic and explain the effects of such applications. So that students develop interest to learn that topic.

For example in computer science subject, construction of compiler design is well explained by teaching where compiler is used and for what purpose is used in the software development. So here the use of compiler is explained first and later students would get interest in knowing what construction of compiler design is. Another example we can try is that in management subject -motivation is explained in a manner that the organization get extensive benefits out of using some techniques like promotions and awards. So here the use of promotion is explained first and later students would get interest in knowing what are promotions and awards. The teacher starts explaining what is promotion and explains what motivation theory in management is.

## V.   THE PRACTICE TO IMPLEMENT THE CONCEPT

➢ Engaging much more of the brain in the process of assimilating and connecting facts than conventional notes.
➢ Making notes with keywords and images and real world application
➢ Using visual and sensory tools
➢ At the end of session, randomly selecting a student to present summary of entire session

## VI.   EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

➢ Makes a particular concept clear and creates clear understanding
➢ Students develop interest to know exactly the concept
➢ Creates long lasting memory of a concept
➢ Recollect information for long time.
➢ Innovative thinking improves

## VII.    PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- ➢ Take quite long time for a teacher to introduce a concept
- ➢ Initial difficulty in understanding a particular concept will be encountered.

## VIII.    CONCLUSION

Higher education has become highly competitive and challenging. Educational institutions are facing competition in order to survive and to improve the quality of education. Best practices in higher education institutions enhance quality of teaching and add value to their services. The analysis reveals some of the suggestions that the teaching people are satisfied when he could reach the students community with his ideas and views. So, teaching depends upon successful mode of communication and Innovation though we mean the changes that we propose to be included in our medium of communication or even inclusion of some other elements in communicating information.

The researchers believe that the core objective of teaching is passing on the information or knowledge to the minds of the students. Any method using computers or modifying the existing conventional chalk-talk method are innovative if they ultimately serve the attainment of core objective of teaching.

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