

# Collaborations 2023

**Q.1. Do these readings make you want to change or stick with your current teaching method? Explain.**

Ans. "Change is a law of nature...."

We are living in a world that's changing all the time. Back in 2019, who would have thought that there will be a time when we will all be stuck inside our houses with no idea of when things will get back to normal. Initially it was so challenging for all of us. However, six months down the line, we were all working from home. It was difficult but we did adapt to the so-called "new normal".

These few years have surely strengthened my belief in the fact that it is very important to reinvent yourself and bring some newness to the teaching – learning methods consciously and consistently. So, after going through the reading, I certainly want to refresh my teaching methods! In a lot of discussions that we have had during workshops and meetings it has been reinforced that "teaching and learning is beyond the four walls of the classroom", this is one of the main aspects that I have tried to focus on during the year. This along with hands-on activities, technology (its pros and cons) and connecting each part of the topics that I will take up with real life are some of the things that would be core to my teaching –learning process. Keeping these things at the base, I would try and build different activities and discussions. I also feel that it is very important for us to make our children aware of the fact that technology is a necessary evil and how important it is to use it wisely... maybe integrating practical experiences and activities that focus on this aspect is also something that I would like to do. To sum up my answer I would just like to say that change always brings excitement and curiosity with it, so keeping my core values intact, I would try to bring changes in my pedagogy.... So that the process is as exciting and interesting for my children as much as it is for me! P.S. Change (positive change) takes away boredom too.....

**Ms. Aastha Dureja**

**Q.1. Do these readings make you want to change or stick with your current teaching method? Explain.**

Ans. As an educator I believe in creating an inclusive space for my students, an environment that focuses on their holistic development. The vision of our school also entails focus on developing skills of enquiry, exploration, independence in thought, freedom of expression, culture of mutual appreciation and empathy.

I believe in being a facilitator, one that scaffolds students to achieve their maximum potential at their own pace, using their inherent abilities and critical ( as well as creative) thinking skills. The school provides us educators opportunities to practice our pedagogy and constantly evolve it to become reflective practitioners and learn from our peers about new techniques and practices.

The psychologically – safe environment we are provided and continuous feedback along with professional development sessions enable us to experiment and explore new methods and practices to employ. The reading about “chatGPT”, Tuition culture in India”, and “ Caitlin’s Newsletter” further reiterate my own ideology behind the purpose of education. We all are running after perfection and becoming the best that in the race we have somewhere forgotten that education isn’t to lead to a “product”, a perfectly mechanized human, rather to create a sensitive and intellectual being. The process that is education should itself be enjoyable and full of learning, one that caters to students’ needs as well as challenges them. The process is the end-goal, with achievements to be an on-going process. The skills learnt should be made evident in the outside world (real-life application) so that for students education isn’t a burden, rather an empowering, joyful and giving learning process.

The question being ‘do the articles make me want to change or stick to my pedagogy?’ It consolidates my belief that I would like to stick to my teaching methods but evolve them as and when needed based on the needs of my students and requirement of the institution I work for, as learning is never-ending, constantly updating my practices is the key.

**Ms. Mansi Sharma**

**Q.1. Do these readings make you want to change or stick with your current teaching method? Explain.**

Ans. Irrespective of the readings, I believe teaching is a process of learning, unlearning and relearning. As the time changes, we need to evolve ourselves and our education system.

There will be no time ever where we can say these are the best teaching strategies we have. Depending upon the classroom requirements, different student's level of understanding, both teaching and assessment techniques should be enhanced.

I would definitely love to change my current teaching methods as I strongly believe that there must be better ways of teaching a concept - maybe through an interesting teaching aid or through a real life situation case solving problem or through interdisciplinary approach or some creative hands-on activity.

I would like to give an example here, I had to teach "Pythagoras Theorem" in class. I had a teaching aid from my B.Ed. training at home using tangrams. Once I gave the visualization of the concept in the class, each and every student gave the same feedback "ma'am, this is a really interesting concept" and as a teacher my job is done. To excite and make curious minds is all that a teacher has to do and for this we need to keep on updating and upgrading ourselves.

Also i believe, we need to be open minded and courageous. We are always so bogged down with certain syllabus given to us that our own creativity goes for a toss. Not only there is a need to shift or I must say update our teaching methods, but also to accept that the subject shouldn't define a student's personality. There are other parameters to assess a child depending upon their level of understanding.

**Ms. Yashasvi Verma**

**Q.1. Do these readings make you want to change or stick with your current teaching method? Explain.**

Ans. The readings were definitely thought provoking and gave me the space to ponder upon how teaching in a classroom setting could be made different. I'm personally very new to the field of teaching, I was a student just a few months back and now I am on the other side. While I am new to teaching, I am not a novice to the world of education and as a student I have been able to take my experience of studying from multiple educators to the classrooms. Thus, I try to plan my lessons in a way which focuses on experiential learning and caters to the different learning styles.

The article, 'I don't want a sci-fi future' made me reflect on how virtues like compassion and empathy could be displayed in classrooms from the very beginning for the students to emulate. A subject like Psychology offers multiple choices to students to come face to face with their biases and open the windows of their consciousness. A lot of this common knowledge can be a part of the curriculum which the students are offered to reflect upon their attitude when they are able to process their life experiences. As I read the article on chatGPT, the first thought that came to my mind was how a plagiarism detector would be an educator's new best friend now! I have always supported the view that the focus should be more on application, evaluation and analysis as opposed to remembering/ recall. Now here we have an AI which is designed to outsmart even that by producing answers for those questions with multiple variations. However, I still believe that it won't be able to decimate the experience of classroom learning or replace the inner mechanism of the human brain.

Children these days are brought up in a tech savvy environment, maneuvering through apps on mobile phones comes as naturally to a 2 year old as a 17 year old. Hence, the rise with which the internet is used for different things is anything but surprising. In such times I believe that it is important to move with the current as opposed to resisting it, perhaps create your own current if necessary.

2. There are certainly multiple changes in the Indian education system that have happened in recent times. The advent of NEP being the most recent one which looks quite promising on paper but its real test would begin once the execution starts. This remains in the hands of educators all across the nation hence I believe that its success would boil down to the altitude of the educators.

My recent fieldwork experience in multiple schools helped me understand that despite the ongoing changes and technological advancements the state of education in a lot of institutes remains unworthy of praise. Indian education would truly be able to raise its ceiling if the stakeholders involved work upon their attitude, behavior and commitment to the cause.

Educational institutes are also perceived as factories which are supposed to mass produce academically brilliant students, hence shifting the focus on solely covering the curriculum. This in turn builds on more pressure on the child and leads to mental angst. The grueling competitions and constant comparison were always present, now on top of that what we see is the presence of herd mentality. Everyone wants to crack that one big entrance exam to get into a prestigious university that they've heard someone brag about.

The article on tuitions made me think about a recent Ted talk that I had seen in which the speaker talked about how the focus when it comes to sending a child to tuitions is so skewed. What we do is send children to tuition based on the subjects in which they are not doing well, essentially expending energy to an area which is weak. However, the flip side to the same could be nurturing the strength of the child instead. For instance if a child is good at a particular subject or an extracurricular activity he could be sent to the classes for the same so that he is able to learn better and hone his skills.

I believe that what is lacking is also poor knowledge regarding various learning disabilities. Research shows that there are at least 4 children in each classroom with an LD, yet there seems to be an utter disregard for the same. Sometimes, even with the awareness and knowledge we fail to understand that the difficult behaviors observed in children often occur as a result of inability to learn properly in class. One thing which I believe is critical for the educators to understand is that a child's lovability should not be equated to his capability. However, we fail to achieve this in our classrooms quite often where only the students who are capable of producing good results are reinforced. The message that the rest of the group receives, especially those who are unable to perform well is that if you can't get good grades then you won't get recognized which leads to a direct impact on their learning and performance.

**Ms. Gunjan Aggarwal**