



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS & ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TEACHERS

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Abstract

It has been universally accepted that there is an active interface between communication and instruction. The pedagogical relationship between the teacher and the student is built through communication. Communication is regarded as the transfer of information or knowledge and cultural content. In this context, the study presented hereinafter assesses the role of teacher's communication skills in their academic success. It presumes that the teacher's communication skills have a significant role in the academic development of the students as well as in his or her own academic success. In a nut shell, the paper depicts different times of the requirement of good communication skills in a teacher.

Introduction

Critical educators believe that the goals of a critical education should be to empower students to “break down barriers, to overcome obstacles, to open doors, minds, and possibilities. It aims at something deeper and richer than simply imbibing and accepting existing codes and conventions, acceding to whatever is before us” (Ayers, 2010, p.

185).



Good communication skills of teacher are the fundamental requirement of academic success of students, and professional success in life. Teacher communicates more instructions verbally in classroom to students. Hence, teachers with poor communication skills may cause failure to students in their learning and also it may discourage the students. Students need to understand that what is right, and what is wrong while it completely depends upon the communication skills of teachers which he practices in class-room. Good communications reduce the potential of unkind feeling during the practice of teaching. For learning, the learner must pay special attention toward their teacher during the lecture. So, the teacher should communicate in clear and understandable manner. Communication should be live and effective.

Teacher's ability to communicate effectively with his or her students is the basic need of a successful teaching and learning process. Good professional teacher should also communicate effectively with the parents as well as the colleagues. Good communication skills of a teacher lead the students to greater academic success. To build further careers in education also a teacher should have good communication skills. With no good communication skills, teacher disables the learning process as well as his or her own career mobility.

Critical communication pedagogy is a relatively new perspective that situates itself at the "intersections of communication, critical theory, and instruction" (Warren & Fassett,

2010, p. 283). It is built upon the foundation of critical pedagogy and the work of Paulo Freire, who argues that "educational processes are not neutral; they can either domesticate or liberate" (Allen, 2011, p. 104). For this reason, communication scholars who work in the area of critical communication pedagogy draw upon critical pedagogy to inform their work (Simpson, 2010).



Times when it is required

Man is a social animal. What makes him social is his ability to act and communicate in the social contexts. Communication is as important as breathing. But a goal achieving communication is an art. It is a prerequisite of the teaching profession because the teacher does not work with machines but with living beings. Here are few points which present the requirements of effective communication skills for a teacher.

1. To get a Job

Good communication skills help an interviewer study what makes a candidate suitable for the job. Teachers who have good communication skills can demonstrate what makes them suitable for the job, during the interview process. A candidate who cannot visibly express ideas or relate his or her professional work and experiences may fail the first test. Teachers looking for employment in school districts and other educational institutions need to communicate successfully throughout the recruitment process.

2. Learner Comprehension

Expertise in the subject matter is not the only requirement of a good teacher but he or she has to facilitate the classroom learning and participation. Learners depend on their teachers to provide them with instruction, guidance and feedback throughout the learning process. To maintain student's comprehension level and grasping the subject matter, a teacher should not fail because of his or her inefficacy in communication. As time goes on, learners' academic progress may suffer because of lack in receiving good support in core subjects.



3. Fight for Right

Sometimes teachers are subject to the conditions of a collective-bargaining agreement, wherein the teachers' union bargains their wages, profit and working conditions with the school administration team. Teachers without excellent communication skills find it hard to express what they want in terms of the contract. The consequences of weak communication throughout the negotiation process can result in misinterpretation and conflict about employment issues.

4. Guardian's Support

Teachers have to communicate with the parents of their students. This happens many times during their carrier. The bonding with parents requires good communication skills. The skill to communicate well is particularly important for teachers in their dealings with parents. Teachers who want a student to excel regularly seek the support of parents to instil good study habits at home. When teachers cannot communicate successfully with parents, they can't describe a student's needs in a way parents understand. Moreover, if a parent identifies the teacher's inability to communicate effectively, the parent might doubt if that teacher competently leads the class.

5. Career

Poor communication skills make a wall for the teachers' career option. Good communication skills are also required practically for all subjects. However, some educational areas may depend more on the teacher's capability to communicate than others. For example, a teacher whose communication skills require work is possibly not the ideal instructor for a public-speaking course.



6. Interacting with Colleagues and Supervisors

In any educational institutes a faculty or a teacher needs to deal with their Colleagues and Supervisors. They should work as a team not as an individual. And a team work needs good communication skills. In the academic arena, team work is required in problem-solving, especially for difficult students, to plan lessons together, to get new ideas and many more academic activities. So, effective communication is part of problem solving, discussions, sharing ideas and other academic activities.

Conclusion

Thus, a teacher should have good communication skills to achieve his or her professional success and to make their learners successful. They play a significant role on both the sides - the teacher and the student. Therefore it is essential for a teacher to assume good communication skills while teaching to the students.

References

Books

Magazines

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