

Teaching of Social Science

Paper – 06

Methods of Teaching Social Science

Meaning of the Method of Teaching:

The word method is often used very loosely, Method is a manner, path, process and a procedure of teaching. A method is a scientific system of teaching learning process. Method always secure a good co-operation between teaching process and student, between teacher and subject matter. So it helps us to make relation in the classroom in organic one.

Need for the Right Method:

Curriculum and syllabus are depended upon the right Method of teaching. Right methods are needed which could expose the pupils to knowledge, and experiences helped in the development of understanding, practical skills, and interests to be developed through a particular subject.

There is no royal road to successful teaching. Method is the means of predetermined ends. It determines the quality of result. The teachers should be able to use good methods, devices and techniques to make teaching of different subject interesting, vital and living. The teacher of Social Science must possess thorough knowledge in its subject matter and also broad understanding of the methods, devices and techniques to make teaching of different subjects interesting, vital and living. The teacher of Social Science must possess thorough knowledge in its subject matter and also broad understanding of the methods of teaching.

Merits of Right Method of Teaching:

Right method of teaching is very important to achieve the objective of Social Science. It should have some good aspects.

- a) The right method always encourages in initiative of the students.
- b) To motivate the students, right method is very essential.
- c) It is good for teaching specific facts and basic skills.
- d) It encourages full participation and it can give the learners to a variety of learning experiences involving observation, reviewing, reporting and evaluating.
- e) Through right method of teaching, students learn tolerance, patient and sympathy to others.
- f) Methods are helpful to achieve the objectives of Social Sciences such as acquisition of knowledge, concepts, development of attitude and techniques.

So, it is clear that for the achievement of comprehensive objectives of teaching various subjects, method is needed which is helpful in the development of critical thinking, practical skills and interests. The teacher of Social Science must be careful in selecting right type of teaching methods. He should know that no single method is sufficient for teaching the whole subject matter.

Lecture Method:

Meaning of Lecture Method:

Lecture means teaching a lesson in the form of speech or talk, the teacher delivers a lecture on a particular topic and the students keep listening in an idle manner.

This method is generally applied in the middle classes and the higher classes. As pupils needs to know many facts about their subject matter in a limited time, teacher should prepare the lesson and the

same is presented before the pupils in a concise form. The teacher makes the lecture interesting by means of other instructional materials on the subject.

This is a teacher centered method, where the teacher is an active participant and the child is a passive learner. This method is one way process, because the teacher gives ideas and the children just receive them. This method is useful in relating some of the historical and mathematical incidents. There are three steps in lecture method -

- a) Planning by the teacher.
- b) Presentation by the teacher.
- c) Receiving by the teacher.

Advantages of Lecture Method:

It has the following advantages -

- a) It is quite attractive and easy to follow using this method. Teacher feels secured and satisfied.
- b) It is quite economical method. Because, it is possible to handle a large number of students at a time.
- c) By following this method, a teacher can develop his own skill of teaching and exposition.
- d) Using this method of knowledge can be imparted to the students quickly and the prescribed syllabus can be covered in short time.
- e) In this method, teacher can easily maintain the logical sequence of the subject by planning his lectures in advance.

Disadvantages of Lecture Method:

The disadvantages of Lecture Method can be as under -

- a) It does not allow all the faculties of the student to develop.
- b) In this method there is no place of learning by doing.
- c) It does not provide for corrective feedback and remedial help to slow learners.
- d) It does not take into account the previous knowledge of the student.
- e) The extensive use of lecture method is very harmful for the students.

Discussion Method:

Meaning:

Discussion is well oriented and well organized method through which a particular topic on the subject of Social Science is discussed thoroughly. This method is not a new one, but a well known traditional method to study any subject or discipline.

Historical Background:

The origin of Discussion Method can be traced from the ancient Greece. In India, this method was applied in Nalanda University. In this way, we find a lot of examples about the application of this method in different schools and colleges and also universities located at different counties of the world.

Merits of Discussion Method:

- a) Discussion gives knowledge a round trip. It is not the one way affair of the lecture.
- b) Discussion helps the teacher in discovering gifted children.
- c) It is useful both for junior and seniors.
- d) In discussion, the material is collected by both teacher and taught. It represents a type of intellectual teamwork.
- e) In the discussion, teacher can discover the students who have potentials for becoming genuine leader.

Demerits of Discussion Method:

- a) Discussion Method is not suitable in all topics.
- b) It may lead to unpleasant feelings.
- c) Discussion may create emotional tension.
- d) The students may not be fully prepared for it.
- e) It is likely to go away from the track.

Project Method:

The Project Method is a modern contribution to educational theory and practices. It is the most concrete of all types of activity methods. It provides learning experiences suited to individual differences. This method is a result of John Dewey's Philosophy of Education and it is practical extension to the Problem Method.

Project is an activity willingly undertaken by the pupils for the solution of a felt problem. The activity undertaken leads to learning as prescribed in the curriculum. It is developed by Dr. William Kilpatrick of the University of Columbia. It is revolt against the traditionally water-tight compartments and pigeonhole time table and environment of the school. It aims at imparting meaningful understanding attitude and real activities, jointly undertaken by students.

It has wide connotation and can be taken to include any activity like dramatics, making models, drawing maps and charts and exhibition, preparation of social studies wall newspapers, organization of debates etc.

Definition:

A project method has been defined by various educationists as -

1. **Ballard:** "A project is a bit of real life that has been imparted into the school."
2. **J.A Stevenson:** "A project is a problem in natural setting"

Basic features of Project Methods:

1. **The Principle of Purpose:** Knowledge of purpose is a good stimulus which motivates the child in realizing in his goal.
2. **The Principle of Experience:** Children learn new facts and information through experience.
3. **The Principle of Reality:** The Project Method is a method of educating the child through real life situations.
4. **The Principle of Freedom:** The Project Method allows the child to be free from restrictions so that he may express himself fully and freely.
5. **The Principle of Unity:** The Project Method develops various attitudes and values which are of great significance from the practical point of view.

Demonstration Method:

In teaching of Science, Social Science and Mathematics, teaching Demonstration method is very important. In this method both the teacher and the students are active. With the help of demonstration the teacher can provide information, create interests and also can develop the standards of work by showing the process. The teacher performs the experiment while teaching in the class and the pupils require knowledge with careful observation of the experiment. This type of teaching is more of a visual aid process where demonstration may be performed by a single teacher or a group of teachers.

The teacher should emphasize major points in demonstration and should write them on black-board. While demonstrating, the teacher should ask some reflective type of questions to stimulate the power of reasoning and interests of student in classroom.

Demonstration helps to raise student interest and reinforce memory retention because they provide connections between facts and real world applications of those facts. It can be used in training group or individuals.

Put in real situation proper demonstrations are not easy to find as efficient skills and techniques are required to give good demonstration. Many people may not be able to practice the skill demonstrated properly due to shortage of time and facilities. Yet, it is the most important method in teaching-learning situation.
