



## CONVERGENCE OF TRADITION AND MODERN EDUCATION METHODS FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT AND QUALITY SUSTENANCE

*Dr. Vinita S Virgandham*  
NAAC Coordinator  
Asst. Prof. Dept. of English  
Bhiwapur Mahavidyalaya, Bhiwapur

### *Abstract*

*One of the prerequisite for a nation to develop is that it should have a sound education system supporting skill and technological advances. Merely theoretical learning has lost all significance in the current scenario. To have a better education system that would suit the banquet of knowledge in this era of globalization, we need to combine the traditional teaching with modern teaching aids. However in this paper I have tried to justify that both traditional and modern teaching should function simultaneously for the creation of education system that will foster to the needs and create pupils who would be all equipped to face this new evolving globalized world. A better education system can only be developed if we are able to bring together traditional and modern teaching methods.*

*Key Words: Globalization, Traditional, Modern, Education, Teaching Methods*

### **Introduction**

Today at every front India seems determined to cast away its robe of caste and creed distinction take the path of development. One of the prerequisite for a nation to develop is that it should have a sound education system supporting skill and technological advances. Merely theoretical learning has lost all significance in the current scenario. There can be no debate on the fact the Indian education system, in spite of all the progress that has evolved a new world in the twenty first century is largely dependent on traditional methods. To have a better education system that



## Studies in Indian Place Names (UGC Care Journal)

ISSN: 2394-3114 Vol-40, Special Issue-07

NAAC sponsored Two Day National Seminar on Role of HEIs In Tapping Local Resources  
for Quality Sustenance and Quality Enhancement  
HELD on 14th & 15th February 2020.

Organized by: Bhiwapur Mahavidyalaya, Bhiwapur, Maharashtra 441201, India



would suit the banquet of knowledge in this era of globalization, we need to combine the traditional teaching with modern teaching aids. It has been an opinion since time immemorial, that no human civilization accepted the modification in their existing system with open arms. A kind of debate, argument or opinion comes into play and the change which is inevitably needed is ceased. The stakeholders here too differ in their opinion about application of traditional teaching methods and modern teaching methods. One considers the traditional teaching method as the best for imparting education whereas the other supports the use of modern teaching methods for providing quality of education. However in this paper I have tried to justify that both traditional and modern teaching should function simultaneously for the creation of education system that will foster to the needs and create pupils who would be all equipped to face this new evolving globalized world.

### Discussion

India being a young nation, has witnessed the contribution of only two generations since the independence. As such it has not come out far from the wrap of the society on economy which relies on agriculture more than it is really required. In spite of all the influx to cities, seventy percent of its population resides in villages and suburbs. The educational institutions catering to the needs of students in these regions follow traditional teaching methods. The tradition of chalk and blackboard continues to dominate the teaching methods employed here. The vital aspects regarding the topic being taught are written on the blackboard. The students note down the points or description in their note books from the blackboard. This turns out to be their study material on which the pattern of examination to test the knowledge that they have gained is deliberated. For this test, the students revise what they have noted down and try to memorise the contents. The main aim of this traditional teaching is to pass the examination and fulfil the eligibility of obtaining admission to higher class in next academic session.

Though the above paragraph establishes the traditional method as more of a tool which is just examination oriented rather than that contributes to a complete personality development, yet its certain advantages cannot be ruled out. These advantages can also be seen as disadvantages of



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modern teaching methods. If we consider the feasibility of introducing modern teaching methods in a developing nation like India, the availability of funds and hardihood of administration cannot be ignored. Initially not enough is planned on financial fronts for introducing new methods at majority of the educational institutes which are run by Government grants but have private managements. Secondly at this stage of economy, the parents of most of the children are not economically sound enough to afford expensive education or even to contribute a small amount for this purpose. Taking into consideration these practical difficulties we find the 'traditional teaching methods cheaper than the modern teaching methods which makes it more suitable in the schools of rural areas' (Sharma, Anil. *Traditional Education: Virtue Out of Necessity*. Vital Publishers, 1997; New Delhi. Print). Thus the traditional method can be implemented more conveniently in rural part of India where a major chunk of its population is still struggling to come out of poverty.

The application of modern teaching methods can be more conveniently applied for the stream of humanities and commerce. The same cannot be said about its implementation in the stream of science. In the teaching of the subjects like Mathematics and Chemistry, the importance of blackboard cannot be denied. The steps of Mathematics solutions and equations of chemical processes can be explained with more clarity by traditional methods. Another focus of modern education is towards making its methods more student centric. Whatever may be the claim of the school of thought that supports Modern Technology for imparting education, the interaction between the teacher and student in traditional teaching methods is more as compared to that in modern teaching methods. We can also say that in traditional teaching there is more discipline in the class. Undoubtedly this is a bone of contention but due to certain limitations of the researcher this topic cannot be dealt with here at length.

### Traditional and Modern Education

India in particular and the world in general witnessed a phase of transition at the start of this century. Technology overnight became a part and parcel of our routine life. But the fact remains that the most of the teachers employed at present will require special training to acquire



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sufficient and shareable technical knowledge. Again the question of availability of funds remains a debatable topic. On administrative front there would be a need to relieve these teachers for training and with no perfectly conveyable policy of time gap replacement, it will surely affect the regular teaching program in educational institutes. Some educationists are also of the opinion that 'in traditional teaching can help teachers concentrate more on subject for imparting the best knowledge to the students' (Alex, George. *Modern Education in India: A Challenge*, Allied Publishers, 2008. New Delhi. Print). Recent health surveys have established modern technology as a health hazards sources with adverse effecting on physical condition of modern generation. It is true about the eyes and the number of students with spectacles has drastically rose during the last decade though no exact data is available with me during the writing of this paper. The close contact with television, computers, projectors, cell phones and other similar appliances is a certain reason for this. They all are directly or indirectly a part of modern educational technology. On the other hand traditional teaching methods do not have anything which is not good for physical health and they don't put any strain on the eyes of students. Thus the traditional methods of education too have certain advantages and it is impossible to imagine a world of education without traditional methods playing a pivotal role.

The arrival of twentieth century brought a rapid increase and optimum availability of high tech equipment in educational institutions. Their presence has brought an opportunity for teachers to change for improvement in methods adapted for teaching in classrooms. However due to geographical, technical, administrative and financial reasons it is not possible for every educational institute, particularly those located in bucolic regions to have an advantage of these technological inventions. Let us see some of them which can be, by considering present facilities, easily introduced across the rural regions of developing nation like India.

The most important tool that can be easily found now a days in every part of the world are computers or laptops. They become more facilitating and effective with availability of NET. But NET or Wi-Fi connectivity at the present stage of India's development is a luxury available proportionately to a few regions of this vast nation. Again teachers demonstrating the subject on laptops or computers with availability of Wi-Fi seems impossible today. Similarly it is not



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affordable for the majority of the students to own or have an appliance of their own. So this kind of teaching is found mostly in the higher education institutes which have the feed from well to do strata of the society and are supplemented with good infrastructure. In this case the teachers will have to perform a extra task of collecting the teaching material in Pen drives, Compact Discs through downloads from the place where connectivity is available and then to apply it in their classroom teaching. Due to lack of possibility of having computer or laptop for every student the mentioned method can be effectively applied through another equipment of modern teaching interactive-whiteboard. Whiteboards are very interactive and provide the touch control of computer applications. Not only interaction but the whiteboards also provide an interesting platform on which a teacher or student can draw, write or manipulate images. The chief advantage of this tool is that anything shown by computer can be seen on it with clarity of all minute details. Another method can be easily implemented in the present scenario in classroom teaching is the use of LCD projectors and screens. Teachers collects teaching material, deconstructs the topic and vital points are presented through power point slides which are displayed on the LCD screen through projector. This can be more effectively implied for the teaching of texts prescribed in language teaching program. The movie adapted from prescribed drama or novel may be screened to catch the attention of students and to facilitate their memory along with better understanding of the text.

At the beginning of this paper we have seen the merits of traditional teaching methods which can be viewed as disadvantages of modern teaching methods. In contrast to it let us try to find out some advantages of modern teaching methods which can be termed as disadvantages of traditional teaching methods. As discussed and explained above, one thing is for sure that modern teaching methods in thee company of technology can make learning more interesting among the students which the help of animations and videos. It is an established fact that a subject taught through visual media is not only understood better but also helps students to memorise the concept for a longer time. The videos and animations used in modern teaching methods are not only more explanatory than the traditional blackboard methods but can also help teacher save time as he or she can cover more syllabus in lesser time because they don't have to



spend time in writing on blackboard and rubbing it thereafter creating space for next points to be written.

Integration of contemporary and usual teaching methods of is necessary for effective teaching which has to cover the shrinking as well as new evolving facets of learning. Till now we have seen that both, traditional and modern teaching methods have their own pros and cons. So it will be beneficial for our education system to combine the advantages of usual and contemporary teaching methods for effective teaching. Now the challenge that arises here is that how can we assimilate the said methods and make postmodern learning more meaningful and effective? At the end of the paper, let us deliberate on some patterns in this regard. Blackboard and LCD projectors can be simultaneously in a classroom. For teaching complex mathematical equations teacher can use blackboard while theoretical subjects can be taught on a LCD projector with the help of slides. Practical subjects of basic sciences and engineering can also be taught best with the help of combination of both traditional and modern teaching methods. Teacher can explain theory on a blackboard and for better understanding of the procedure of the experiment videos or animations can be used. Another aspect through which the two diametrically opposite methods of teaching can be combined is that teachers can teach the subject first through usual methods and then can take the help of modern teaching methods for revising the subject.

### Conclusion

Thus through this paper I have made a humble attempt to provide the best available teaching option for the students. The main motive of the education that no one can deny has to be able to produce a citizen with knowledge and understanding of responsibilities towards nation and society. For this education should build the overall character and bring all round development of the students. There is no point in discussing which teaching method is better than the other. Rather we should concentrate on making available the best education system to the students as it's the students who will run the nation in future. A better education system can only be developed if we are able to bring together traditional and modern teaching methods.



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