

LEARNER CENTERED APPROACHES

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Introduction

Learner-centered teaching is an approach to teaching that is increasingly being encouraged in education. Learner-centered teachers do not employ a single teaching method. This approach emphasizes a variety of different types of methods that focus on what the students are learning, it changes the role of the teachers from a provider of information to facilitating student learning. Traditional teaching often leads to students who are passive learners and who do not take responsibility for their own learning, this traditional method. In contrast with, "learner- centered teaching" occurs when instructors focus on student learning.

Student-centered teaching methods include active learning, in which students solve problems, answer questions, formulate questions of their own, discuss, explain, debate, or brainstorm during class; cooperative learning, in which students work in teams on problems and projects under conditions that assure both positive interdependence and individual accountability; and inductive teaching and learning, in which students are first presented with challenges and learn the course material in the context of addressing the challenges. Inductive methods include inquiry-based learning, case-based instruction, problem-based learning, project-based learning, discovery learning, and just-in-time teaching. Student-centered methods have repeatedly been shown to be superior to the traditional teacher-centered approach to instruction, a conclusion that applies whether the assessed outcome is short- term mastery, long-term retention, or depth of understanding of course material, acquisition of critical thinking or creative problem-solving skills, formation of positive attitudes toward the subject being taught, or level of confidence in knowledge or skills.

Characteristics of Learner-Centered Teaching

- Engage students in the learning process. In traditional teaching in most classes teachers are working much harder than students. Students don't develop sophisticated learning skills without the chance to practice and in most classrooms the teacher gets far more practice than the students. With Learner-Centered Teaching students have the opportunity to implement a real task and acquire 21st century skills and key competences through the process.
- Learner-centered teaching includes explicit skill instruction, students learn how to think, solve problems, decision making, team work, evaluate evidence, analyze arguments, generate hypotheses all those learning skills essential to mastering material in the discipline. They do not assume that students pick up these skills on their own, automatically. A few students do, but not all, research shows that learning skills develop faster if they are taught explicitly along with the content.
- Learner-centered teaching encourages students to reflect on what they are learning and how they are learning it. Learner-centered teachers talk about learning. In conversations, students write about what they have learned, what were their difficulties and strengths . In class they may talk about their own learning and do pair assessment. They challenge student assumptions about learning and encourage them to accept responsibility for decisions they make about learning. Learner-centered teaching includes assignment components in which students reflect, analyze and critique what they are learning and how they are learning it. The goal is to make students aware of themselves as learners and to make learning skills something students want to develop.
- Learner-centered teaching motivates students by giving them some control over learning

processes. Teachers make most of the decisions about learning for students. Teachers decide what students should learn, how they learn it, the pace at which they learn, the conditions under which they learn and then teachers determine whether students have learned.. Learner-centered teachers search out ethically responsible ways to share responsibility with students. They might give students some choice about which assignments they complete. They might make classroom agreements something students can discuss. They might let students set assignment deadlines within a given time window.

- Learner-centered teaching encourages collaboration Learner-centered teaching makes possible students can learn from and with others. The teacher has the expertise and an obligation to share it, but teachers can learn from students as well. Learner-centered teachers work to develop structures that promote shared commitments to learning. They see learning individually and collectively as the most important goal of any educational experience.

- A Learner-centered teaching in order to develop children as effective learners to achieve learner-centered teaching, teachers should focus in the following Content teaching will be based on building a strong knowledge foundation and to develop learning skills and learner self-awareness.

The role of the teacher:

The role of the teacher is as facilitator of the learning process. The teacher proposes students a real task and shares some decisions about the learning process.

Responsibility of the own learning:

The teacher creates learning environments that motivate students to take responsibility for own learning.

Readiness: This shows in motivation, curiosity, the belief you can achieve, and that you deserve to be successful.

Reflectiveness: This displays in looking back at your learning, improving your learning, performance and practice.

Resourcefulness: Characterised by learning with and from others, learning creatively in different ways, being flexible, applying what you have learned.

Responsibility: This shows you on your own self-awareness in learning and taking ownership of your learning and being able to learn alongside others.

To be a good learner students must:

- Be motivated and ready to learn at every opportunity.
- Be willing to face a challenge
- Listen carefully and work well
- To recognise positive learning behaviours in themselves.
- To recognise positive learning behaviours in others.
- To identify skills to use when learning becomes difficult.
- To evaluate their own learning and identify what can be done differently next time.

Conclusion

Students who understand their own styles are likely to be better learners, achieve higher grades, have more positive attitudes about their studies, feel greater self-confidence, and exhibit more skill in applying their knowledge in courses.