



Dramatic innovation practices for excellence in teaching

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Abstract

This article discusses the dramatic innovation practices for excellence in teaching. Drama is the most significant model of learning and is a basic activity of learning. It is the way of helping children to think their individual or social problems. Using theatre as an educational tool for academia and community the teachers training work shop is an ideal platform to assist educators seeking knowledge of theatre elements that could be applied in teaching core subjects using imagination. The school is a form community in which concentrates on helping a child to share in the inherited resources of the race.

Keywords: dramatic, innovation, significant, theatre, academia, platform, concentrate, inherited

Introduction

"Excellence is an art own by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence but we rather have excellence because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit." Aristotle.

The real strength of Indian higher education system would come through allowing the colleges and University departments to work open & transparent environment.

They need to be used as focal point of activities to spread & sustain the torch of lifelong learning. Higher education is a dynamic phenomenon.

The teaching and learning process, which imbibes skills in a learner, gets further strengthened if it is integrated with research.

The globalization of education has forced comparison between various educational institutions. The institutions will have to adapt to modern method of teaching learning, develop learner friendly teaching material, change their evaluation and strive for excellence to sustain them in this competitive world.

They will have to retrain their teachers and equip them with skills that will enhance the quality of teaching and research. Quality and excellence do not happen accidentally.

Organized and focused efforts are needed to achieve them. There is need to nurture and promote autonomy in college and University departments.

One way of improving standards is to induce them to do critical analysis of the present strengths and ask them to device strategy, working plants and mechanism to achieve better heights comparable to higher standards of quality at global level, in their post-graduate teaching and research programmes.

The useful and clever use of multi- media material in teaching and learning process is now well accepted and several universities in the world are in the process of development of courseware that could be accessed through internet. An innovation always needs re-orientation of teacher community. The problems of Indian education system are of access,

equity, number, relevance, and quality and resource crunch. The globalization is having impact on education.

This is happening more immediately because of shrinking space, shrinking time and disappearing borders as a result of information and communication revolution.

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Rising internet in utility oriented education and enhanced economic strength of few have encouraged the growth of private institutions and entry of foreign universities India.

India is relocating itself to face the challenge of globalization. It also needs highly skilled human power to manage its own growing economy.

The growing interconnectedness of all the science is one of the principle thrust of our times.

The third dimension of university activities namely extension that presently includes adult and continuing education as in important element needs to be further widened by re-orienting it as link with business and society.

Higher education and research now act as essential components of cultural, socio-economic and environmentally sustainable development of individuals, communities and nation. Higher education is no longer a luxury.

It is essential for survival. We need to invest in our people Higher education is a lifelong learning process. World will be looking for trained persons in all basic fields with sound knowledge based in their core discipline with abilities adopt for new demands.

The universalisation of job market and acceptance of Indian skills at a global level has open opportunities for creation of new jobs internally particularly at back officer.

Moreover the service sector which is on the rise would call for trained human power at various levels. Core mission of higher education to educate, to train, to undertake research and to provide service to the community must be preserved.

Theatre in education workshop for trainers and teachers:

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Imagination

encircles the world” Albert Einstein.

Using theatre as an educational tool for academia and community the teachers training work shop is an ideal platform to assist educators seeking knowledge of theatre elements that could be applied in teaching core subjects using imagination.

Theatre exercises to facilitate better bonding, team spirit and teach how to work in co-ordination.

Theatre workshops enable teachers to make their classes interesting and facilitate greater learning by using theatre tools & techniques.

Theatre techniques can transform & improve, inspire working life. Theatre workshops can make you unique performer as a teacher. Theatre techniques are used as training tools in the class- room. Applied Drama is umbrella term for the wide use of drama practice in a specific social context and environment. This practice does not has to take place in a conventional theatre space. It can be shared with or created for a specific audience, making them the starting point & the driving force for what is often a personal based exploration.

Applied Drama can be a therapeutic medium, using narrative & both real & imagined story as a tool to examine shared experience through a dramatic frame work.

It uses symbols, role play & improvisational theatre to allow us to a point of entry into the “Self & as a vehicle for exploring the relationship between knowledge & action.

What the audience perceives & contributes categorizes the very nature of applied drama. For example Theatre in Education, Drama in Education, Community Drama, Drama in Health Care, Prison Theatre.

Drama in education: Drama in education provides a forum for students to develop an understanding of themselves & other. As students develop a better understanding, they are able to create works using the forms, elements & techniques of the drama discipline.

There are many post-secondary academic, institutions across the world that offer training in Applied Drama, which may also called Drama in Education and Community. Theatre and Development Industrial Theatre etc.

In Canada alone there are degree programs offered at the University of Windsor, Concordia University Montreal, the University of Alberta and the University of Victoria in B.C.

In Ontario the University of Windsor is renowned known for its undergraduate degree in Drama in Education and Community.

This program explores applications for drama such as Theatre for Social Action. Drama in Education & Drama in Health care Professor Bernie Warren is a tenured professor in this department and one of the world’s leading researchers on Clown therapy which is one example of applied drama.

Techniques: There are many methods for teaching drama. Each strategy involves varying levels of student participation. Drama can be done as an activity on its own or as an extension of another subject area. Picture Books are often used as a source in drama.

Drama Games: Drama games, activities and exercises are often used to introduce students to drama. These activities

tend to be less intrusive and are highly participatory.

There are several books that have been written on using drama games that can serve excellent resource for anyone wanting to incorporate drama games into their work.

There are also smaller books however, which serve as excellent practical guides e.g. Drama Games by Bernie Warren is an excellent pocket book for someone looking to try drama games for the first time.

Choral Speaking: Choral dramatization involves students reading aloud by assigning parts to each group member. Choral dramatization can use texts such as rhymes, poetry and picture book, Students can experiment with voice, sound gesture and movement.

Tableaux: It involves students creating visual pictures with their bodies, emphasizing key details and relationship. Tableaux are frozen scenes & usually involve at least three levels. Students focus on focal point, facial expressions, & body language.

Improvisation: It is the practice of acting & reacting of making and creating in the moment and in response to the stimulus of one’s immediate environment. Improvisation can be great introduction to role playing Students focus of position expression and creativity in their impromptu skills.

Role Playing: Role Playing allows students to play a character in a real or imaginary situation. One of the simplest form is where “the student plays himself faced with an imaginary situation.” Other strategies have students playing real-life or imaginary character in verify of contexts. Role play can be used throughout many areas of the curriculum especially history and language art to support and strengthen understanding of content.

Below is a list of common role-play strategies. Reenactment students perform scenes from a historical time period or a scene in story.

An enactment may be cast in the past the present, or the future- but always happens in the now time.” This strategy encourages students to interact with a text and challenges them to take on the perspective of a character.

Extended role play: Students may create the scene that takes place before or a after a story or scene. This strategy helps students to predict and theorize about cause and effect.

Hot Seat: Student is interviewed in character by putting the character from a scene, event or “stand” students can further explore their understanding of the context.

Other students in the class prepare questions that exploring the character and their conflicts students are encouraged to write open-ended questions.

Teacher may wish to model hot seating first by acting as the character in the role. Also the person in the hot seat may have a couple of students who act as their “brain”.

They are there to help answer questions if the person on the hot seat needs them. There are many variations available for this strategy.

Teacher in role: This is the key to involving teacher participant. This strategy can take on many forms. The teacher may take on the role of a character or figure from the event scene or story. The primary objective of this strategy is to allow students to ask question and help discover answers to any unresolved issues.

The teachers may also choose to immerse themselves in the scene and take on a role while interacting with other characters. The primary role in this situation is to further the evolving drama.

Expert Panel: Students themselves become an expert. In order to prepare for this role student must determine what an expert in the area might know. This works in a history or when focusing on broader issues, topics in literature. This strategy can unfold by having students meet as a group of experts or by having students meets in pairs in an interview situation.

Writing in role: A variation on the above strategic students may also write in character often they are asked to imagine themselves as a real or a fictions character in a particular state or situation. Writing in role can take on many forms including journal, monologue, letter or newspaper article. This is meant to be a summary of the story, but instead a further exploration of the character and their interaction with events.

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