

Teaching Strategies for Development of Creative Thinking Skills

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Abstract: *Creativity is considered one of the most valued abilities for learning; and it is a higher-order cognitive ability that is associated with fostering the creation of novel and worthwhile ideas. The concept of creativity is dynamic and can be employed in a wide range of human endeavors. Creative thinking is the process by which students utilize their imagination to generate ideas, questions, and hypotheses, experiment with different options, and assess their own and their peers' ideas, final products, and processes. Creative thinking strengthens students in a variety of facets and provides them many advantages in the course of their education and career.*

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Introduction

As per A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's views, creativity flourishes in the context of meaningful learning; thinking comes from the blossoming of creativity. Knowledge is fully lighted when it originates from thought; and so as knowledge is spread, the economy grows.

When learning is purposeful, creativity blossoms. When creativity blossoms, thinking emanates. When thinking emanates, knowledge is fully lit. When knowledge is lit, economy flourishes (A.P.J. Abdul Kalam)

Creativity is regarded as one of the most valued abilities for learning. It is believed that creativity is a higher-order cognitive ability based on sophisticated and post-formal thought that is associated with fostering the creation of novel and worthwhile ideas.

The process of generating novel and creative ideas through inventiveness and creativity is known as creative thinking. It entails coming up with original concepts, methods, or remedies to issues that have never been considered before.

One of the most important competencies for the twenty-first century has been identified as creative thinking. In a twenty-first-century learning report from UNESCO, creativity is outlined as a guiding concept for empowering students:

Critical thinking is a popular, sometimes overused, term that in reality describes, quite simply, the principles of "good" or "clear" thinking. "Good thinking" is the ability to judge arguments or points of view with intelligence and to not be influenced by ideology, fundamentalism, indoctrination, prejudice, or unverified beliefs. Critical thinking allows students to think for themselves (Hughes, C and Acedo, C 2015).

Considering creative thinking is crucial for success in all academic fields, educators have traditionally placed a high priority on it. Utilizing creative thinking abilities is crucial given the incredible progress and quick advancements in order to enhance performance and excellence in a variety of spheres of life. This will help teachers overcome numerous challenges in the course of their work as educators by allowing their creativity to run wild and creating the ideal environment for both outstanding performance and creativity.

In many facets of life, such as the arts, sciences, business, and everyday problem-solving, creative thinking is fundamental. It enables us to take fresh approaches to issues, identify alternatives, and come up with novel solutions. It can also result in personal development and fulfillment since it inspires us to pursue our hobbies and passions and share our distinct viewpoints.

The Concept of Creativity

The concept of creativity is dynamic and can be employed in a wide range of human endeavors. Researchers, while studying creativity, generally agree that, despite differences in individual conceptions, creativity is determined by combining two essential characteristics: originality (newness, novelty) and usefulness (worthwhile, meaningful) as defined within a specific context. Scholars understand that both characteristics must be present for something to be classified as innovative. Research has usually concentrated on highly notable creative individuals and products, and it has a tendency to see creative individuals, goods and social environments as separate variables. By realizing that creative action is a far more dynamic and equivocal process that occurs in or is even co-constitute with the larger social milieu, modern academics have extended these conceptualizations (Van der Zanden et al., 2020).

Robert E. Franken says, "Creativity is the tendency to generate or recognize ideas, alternatives, or possibilities that may be useful in solving problems, communicating with others, and entertaining ourselves and others". Higher-order thinking is required for both problem-solving and decision-making based on reflective thinking, which is the emphasis of critical thinking (Norris and Ennis, 1989).

According to Scriven and Paul (1992), it is defined as "intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action".

As per the definition provided by Kampylis and Berki (2014), creative thinking is the process by which students utilize their imagination to generate ideas, questions, and hypotheses, experiment with different options, and assess their own and their peers' ideas, final products, and processes.

Significance of Creative Thinking

The term "creativity" refers to a broad spectrum of abilities. The capacity for creativity required for altering ideas and perspectives.

Although it's hard to define and demonstrate creativity, there are constructive strategies that anyone can learn. In order to address problems, creative thinking will force a person to think outside the box and explore new ideas, perspectives, and points of entry. Provocations are just one tool that may be used in this process.

It has long been believed that encouraging students to think creatively is crucial to their education and brain development. The educational psychologist and educator Benjamin Bloom (1956) developed Bloom's Taxonomy, which divides learning into six categories, the last of which is "create." According to Bloom, creation is an essential component of education where students are free to create original works of art, look into issues and their answers, design products, or formulate theories. Consequently, it can be claimed that students' creative thinking represents the pinnacle of their knowledge and education.

When an issue arrives on a group scale, creative thinking also facilitates the discovery of additional ideas and solutions. The ability to think creatively is crucial because it enables individuals to think outside of their comfort zone, explore alternative viewpoints, and even be receptive to the concept of novel solutions. The ability to solve problems, analyze critically, and communicate effectively is an invaluable skill that can help students in every facet of their education.

Creative thinking strengthens students in various aspects and gets the following benefits:

- **Enhanced problem-solving abilities:** Students who use creative thinking are more likely to find original solutions to issues. Students in all subject areas will benefit from having this skill since they will frequently encounter issues that call for creative problem-solving.
- **Enhanced self-assurance:** Students have a sense of self-worth and competence when they are able to generate original and creative ideas. This may result in a more enthusiastic approach to learning. Thoughts become biased as a result, yet it is possible to learn to set these ideas aside and develop a profound self-awareness. It increases one's self-assurance in one's knowledge and thinking.
- **Enhanced communication abilities:** Students' communication abilities can be enhanced by using creative thinking. This is the capacity for succinct and clear thought expression. For students to express their ideas and work together, they must have excellent communication abilities.
- **Better Leadership:** During history, creative thinker instances have included inspirational leaders from a variety of backgrounds. They succeed at the pinnacle of brilliance thanks to unique concepts that have the power to alter the path of human history.
- **Enhanced motivation and involvement:** If students are given the freedom to express themselves creatively, they are more likely to be engaged with the subject matter and be prepared to put in the work necessary to learn. Better academic achievement may result from this.
- **Improved critical thinking abilities:** Students' critical thinking abilities can be strengthened with the aid of creative thought. This is the capacity to assess various viewpoints and interpret data. For students to be able to make wise judgments, critical thinking is crucial.
- **Heightened fortitude:** You will inevitably encounter challenging circumstances and make tough decisions; nevertheless, you can handle them professionally and artistically to allow yourself to be creative in your solution-finding. And that gives you the guts to put the plan into action and accept the outcome, whatever it may be.
- **Relieving tension and stress:** Regularly engaging in creative thought exercises helps people release tension and stress brought on by their busy schedules and numerous obligations. And the answer in this case is to approach stressful and tense situations in a novel and inventive way. Here, using creative thinking will help you eliminate stressors and generate more clever and imaginative ideas. Additionally, it might enable you to do your work more quickly and effectively.
- **Fostering collaboration and social cohesion:** one of the key effects of creative thinking is the development of a cooperative team environment. This fosters social cohesiveness among teammates.

Teaching Strategies for Development of Creative Thinking Skills

Teaching that is creative is dynamic, engaging, inspiring, and interactive. Creative learning is defined as knowledge that is created via the active participation of the subject, from planning to internalization. It is marked by learner-centeredness, self-assessment, intrinsic inspiration and process of openness (Torre, S. de la, 1993). The improvement of creative thinking abilities is indispensable for transform of creative possibility into creative performance through. Every person has the ability to transform their creative potential into creative behavior if their creative abilities are intentionally, consciously, and willingly developed.

In this sense, the training of creative abilities needs to be both voluntary and personal; however it also needs to be supported by the educational environment. From the perspective of didactics, creativity is an idea that ought to be covered in the curriculum through the objectives, formative exercises, strategies, learning activities, and assessments. If not, it becomes little more than an idle hope for positive social acceptance (Torre, S. de la, & Violant, V., 2003).

Generally speaking, it can be said that in order to achieve the best possible development of creativity, research recommendations derived from implemented programs and strategies for the same are based on applying divergent thinking processes (fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration, transformation, sensitivity, and symbolic play) and convergent conceptual processes (analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of ideas) involved in the creation of products in the problem-solving process (Larraz, N., 2015).

One significant finding from a meta-analysis was that training programs that were more successful were probably focused on structured and directed exercises that targeted the development of particular cognitive skills relevant to the task at hand. These exercises included idea generation and cognitive training in problem solving techniques.

Research on creativity in education indicates that creativity can grow effectively and truly if pertinent efforts are made in this direction at all educational levels, from pre-school to higher education. Furthermore, research indicates that the role of the educator is crucial in fostering creativity and providing a platform for directing a child's early creative development (Leggett, N., 2017). According to Van der Zanden et al. (2020), a recent meta-study emphasizes the significance and necessity of elucidating and investigating the teaching-learning processes involved in the development of creativity, identifying the strategies and procedures employed.

As a result, there is a strong emphasis on the necessity of advancing educational policies and procedures that enable educators to foster their students' creative thinking. These policies and procedures are founded on instructional strategies that enable students to produce knowledge and address issues related to society, science, and technology.

Implications for Practice

The significance of using the creative thinking process to solve problems is being emphasized, as this is the best way to foster creativity because creativity and problem-solving are very similar. In order to apply creative skills explicitly in the educational setting, the most pertinent tactics for their development are finally presented, with a focus on problem solving. Creative thinking abilities can be developed in a variety of ways. The following are some strategies that students can attempt:

- **Exercise brainstorming:** Spend some time to come up with as many ideas as you can about a given subject. Put all of your thoughts on paper, without editing or evaluating them. The more concepts you come up with, the more probable it is that you'll find an exceptional and original solution.
- **Look for new experiences:** Getting exposed to a variety of fresh events might help to spark your creativity and imagination. Take up new interests, visit unfamiliar locations, or go to events that aren't part of your daily schedule.
- **Examine assumptions:** Face your preconceptions and prejudices on a circumstance or issue. Analyze the issue from several perspectives and consider the consequences of altering your strategy.
- **Foster curiosity:** Ask inquiries and cultivate an inquisitive attitude about the world you live in. Consider the reasons behind current circumstances and the ways in which they might be altered.

- **Adopt mind mapping:** A visual technique that might assist you in exploring connections between various thoughts and concepts is mind mapping. It might assist you in coming up with fresh concepts and investigating connections between various parts.
- **Work together with others:** Working together with others might help you see things from different angles and come up with fresh concepts. Collaborate with others possessing varying backgrounds or skill sets to acquire novel perspectives and methods.
- **Permit yourself to make failures:** Taking chances and attempting new things are common components of creative thinking. Take calculated risks and view failure as a chance to improve and learn.

Therefore, learners are advised to keep in mind that patience and practice are prerequisites for mastering creative thinking. Through the integration of these tactics into one's everyday schedule, one can foster creativity and discover fresh approaches to issues.

Conclusion

To conclude, creativity is considered one of the most valued abilities for learning. It is believed to be a higher-order cognitive ability that is associated with fostering the creation of novel and worthwhile ideas. The concept of creativity is dynamic and can be employed in a wide range of human endeavors. Creation is an essential component of education where students are free to create original works of art, look into issues and their answers, design products, or formulate theories. Thus, creative thinking strengthens students in various aspects and gets them many benefits in the course of their education and career.

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