PERSONALIZED LEARNING

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Abstract

Personalized learning pertains to directive in which speed of learning and the teaching approach are augmented as per the requirements of each learner. Students are indispensable ingredients of the learning procedure in personalized learning. Personalized learning can lessen the disgrace associated with special education and can fulfill the requirements of special students in superior way. The part played by teachers in learning cannot be substituted and their role is most important in personalized learning as well. The learning proposals, study schedules, test preparation and evaluation, comments and prospective planning can be carried out with the use of technology. Personalized learning is not a substitute to traditional education but it only makes it better.

Keywords: Personalized Learning, Traditional Education, Indispensable Ingredients.

Introduction

Personalized learning pertains to directive in which speed of learning and the teaching approach are augmented as per the requirements of each learner. Learning aims, instructional propositions and instructional matter along with its indexing may all differ as per the learner requirements in personalized learning. Furthermore, It presents the learning exercises that are purposeful and worthwhile for learners, powered by their concerns and mostly with their initiatives.

Features of Personalized Learning

Learning is constructed as per the needs of each and every learner. This may involve whole class taking instructions or carrying out small group tasks, one to one learning or putting technology into use. The result of each and every learner is evaluated. The data that can be extracted depends upon the mode of learning applied. In case of small-group tasks, the teachers might ask learners direct, unrestricted and penetrating queries which will aid teachers in preparing further lessons. Use of technology enables real time assessment. The performance of each and every learner is evaluated with respect to predefined standards. Predefined standards may include laid down educational practices and also predefined objectives of the lesson in question. Personalized learning is ensured for each and every learner. Personalization of learning can be done by teachers or by technology and sometimes a combination of the both is needed. In some modes, learners are also allowed to use the available data to modify the way of the learning. Time to time evaluation of learner's achievement should be done. The information extracted through evaluation is used by teachers and students to further improve the learning experience and to further enhance the technology employed for personalized learning.

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Need of Personalized Learning

Children differ in their speed and mode of learning. Personalized learning as a education technique depends upon this proposition. Learning method for each student is based upon his core competencies. It is in sharp contrast to 'one method for everybody' approach of the traditional learning. Students are an inseparable component of the learning activity in personalized learning. Students and teachers work in tandem to chalk out present and future goals and students have the control on what they learn? Personalized learning is an enhanced technique of normal education. This technique works in tandem with other techniques to personalize the learning of the students.

Potential of Personalized Learning

Schools are not employing Personalized learning wholeheartedly now days. Research is still continuing in many areas but this technique can definitely lessen the disgrace associated with special education and can fulfill the requirements of special students in superior way. Personalized learning also presents students with the opportunities to develop self-service traits. It motivates them to put forward their interests. It makes them to share equal responsibility of their learning with the teachers.

Principles of Personalized Learning

Personalized learning is tailored on seven principles. Let us study about them:

- **Choice and voice**: Students present their learning approaches and priorities as learners in the exercise.

- **Choice for demonstrating learning**: Students have lots of modes to explain proficiency of Subjects. They have at their disposal both technological and conventional equipments.

- **Varied strategies**: Students have an option of two or more modes for learning or access content.

- **Mastery based assessment:** The students decide how to take the syllabus forwards and not the other way round? Evaluations are assisted by skills and capabilities.

- **Flexible pacing:** Students are allowed to cover the syllabus at the speed in which they are comfortable. This allows them to attain the mastery of the subject.

- **Co-planning learning:** Under this principle, students, their parents and society participate to make learning effective and fruitful.

- **Just-in-time direct instruction:** Direct instruction is available to students. They can rely on direct instruction as and when they need. They don't have to wait till the teacher makes himself available.

Role of Teacher in a Personalized learning Classroom

Schools throughout the nation are shifting from conventional learning techniques to personalized ones. Although they are accepting its goodness but many have doubts regarding the tasks of the teachers in the new system. Change is there in the work of teachers with advancement of technology; new innovations and learning based on leadership of the students

but their relevance have been further enhanced. These can be no substitutes to the teachers and their tasks in personalized learning. The tasks include enabling teachers to employ available facts and technologies, to create a delightful learning environment in the classroom, strengthen bonding with their students and educating their students to gauge their influence on the class and create more Personalized learning avenues. Teachers become close towards students and it helps students in acquiring the learning. Teachers should acquire the knowledge of various cultures and they need to gain knowledge about their students to be successful in personalized learning. By knowing the abilities and constraints of the students, teachers make students understand their respective abilities and constraints and this paves the way for students taking initiatives in the learning. A teacher has variety of learning techniques at its disposal and he can employ any of them as per his discussions with each and every student. The teacher plays the role of a coordinator, putting into use the variable steps and distinctive evaluation techniques. In personalized learning, teachers not only teach subjects but they also teach learning skills and this paves the way for the learners to become the master of their learning.

Role of Technology in Personalized Learning

No two persons in the world are the same and so they can't have same requirements or caliber. As with all other spheres of life, technology has become an intrinsic part of learning as well. Although personalized learning has been in existence for long time employing conventional tools, use of technology has widened its scope the learning proposals, study schedules, test preparation and evaluation, comments and prospective planning can be carried out with the use of technology. The development of the learning plans in personalized learning is developed by carrying out systematic analysis of past experiences of the learner. Along with employing the conventional text based techniques, technological techniques like videos and graphics are also employed. The best thing about personalized learning is that it doesn't evaluate all the students on same parameters. The learning material is adopted as per the requirements and capabilities of the students. This makes the students equally accountable for their learning and makes learners an intrinsic part of the mission.

Strategies for Personalized Learning

By the first look, personalized learning looks like a very difficult exercise for the teachers. Evaluating the best mode for every student appears to be complicated and not required, although, when addressed with the correct attitude, personalized learning can be achieved in a brisk pace. The objective is to take students towards the success through their favoured path. The following are the five personalized learning strategies that the teachers should know:

- **Project- based Learning:** In this, emphasis is put on clearing the concepts of the students. In it, students are at liberty to select an area of their liking and then thoroughly studying the same to chalk out solutions. The project can be a long unanswered query, some new provocations or a fascinating challenge. Once the area has been selected, various tools are available to the students to complete the project.

The final objective is enhanced learning; more marks are given for technique than the final result. It is one of the best strategies for personalized learning.

- **Different Writing Approaches**: If all the students are told to write the same thing, it is sometime irritating. On the other hand if students are told that they need to write their feelings on a particular topic then the task seem interesting. Web pages that allow learners to put forward their views freely are one of the important tools for this. Poetry is also a nice medium for this. Mixed pictures and words also make students participative. When students are pitted against varying writing approaches they can conclude that which one is best for them?

- **Classroom Design**: Conventional classrooms are the things of past. Modern classrooms are accustomed as per the requirements of different learners. Every learner can't sit motionless for whole day. Inclusion of modern innovative tools can make things much better for the learners. The class layout should be changed periodically to make learning interesting .The chairs should be easy to sit and rooms should have adequate natural light.

- **Personalized Learning Plans**: Personalized learning plans are the foundation of learning strategies. This strategy looks cumbersome than others but it is very significant. The learning cycle should start with introductory sessions. Healthy three-way communication among teachers, students and parents should be maintained. Students should be told to participate effectively in the learning process. Once learning plan has been finalized, its progress should be monitored on daily basis. Modifications required if any, need to be carried out in real time basis.

- **Continued Assessment**: There are different modes to assess the students. Different modes of assessment need to be employed across the year as per the requirements. Comparisons with previous results should be made. Tools like entry level and exit level tests should be extensively used. By employing various evaluation modes, teachers can provide the extraordinary results.

Can Personalized Learning Replace Classrooms?

Personalized learning is not a replacement to the classrooms. In the present scenario, presence and awards are mandatory in education all across the globe. That is why personalized learning can only add to the traditional study culture? Students have no other option except getting admission in recognized institution to attain a recognized award. Nevertheless, technology is competent enough of not only creating but bettering the formal study culture in a personalized way. As personalized learning is gaining more and more popularity, it would be of great help for job- related programs, differently abled children and for team work learning.

How Personalized Learning Works?

Implementation of Personalized learning differs from school to school. There are generally applied four models of personalized learning at schools. All these models work for making students learning experience better and for ensuring high quality learning.

- **Schools that Employ Student Traits:** Schools employing this model continuously update the student records. The records include virtues, requirements, impulses and ambitions of each and every student. These records help the school in knowing their students better. These records help teachers in designing the learning sessions for the students. These records also act as a mirror to students themselves as they can track their progress. This model gives inputs to all the constituents of learning viz. the educator, the students and also the parents of usefulness of learning technique presently applied and whether any change in learning technique is required or not.

- **Schools that Use Personalized Learning Paths:** The schools employing this model facilitate the each learner to carve a learning path for himself as per his growth, impulses and ambitions. For example, schools may carve out a learner's time table as per his intellectual growth and passion. Each learner time table is different from others. Each schedule comprises of several learning techniques. The time table may include research –based study with similar intellect friends, personalized action on some difficult situations or personalized sessions with the teachers. A Personalized learning path permits learners to work at varying speeds as per the skill level. Schools never allow any learner to lag behind keep on providing backend support.

- **Schools that Use Competency-Based Progression:** Schools employing this model track the performance of their learners on continuance basis. In this model, the outcomes expected are made clear to the learners from the beginning itself. The outcomes expected consist of distinct traits, expertise and attitudes. Students are given multiple chances to portray their command. The student might work on multiple skills at one time. Once he is proficient in a skill, he goes for another one. The learner is provided help, he requires for attaining proficiency in a trait. The focus is not on examination and results rather it focuses on sustained study and provides numerous chances to portray their command.

Schools are using flexible learning environments. Schools employing this model create the learning environment as per the needs of learners so that the learners acquire best of the learning. Learning environment consists of basic architecture of the class, the time table and student teacher ratio. It is a cumbersome task to revamp the approach of the teachers towards distance, pace and assets in the classroom. If it really helps students then it is worth taking the pain.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Personalized Learning

- **Advantages for Students**

Students can cover the course as per their skill and ability. Students can follow their own routine for the course. It reduces the distance between teachers and students. It ensures improved learning for the students and students can attain higher marks if they put in more efforts. It makes the teaching objective based and makes learners aware of ultimate learning from the course. It makes students self sufficient in studies. It increases inventiveness among students. It generates prudence among students.

- **Advantages for Teachers**

It ensures lesser gap between teachers and students. It makes students learn better. It ensures improved learning for the learners. Personalized learning enables teachers to know the individual differences. It inculcates leadership qualities among the learners. In Personalized learning, the epicenter of the learning is the learners and not the teachers.

- **Advantages for Administration**

More productive applications of amenities are guaranteed in personalized learning. It guarantees learning even when the teacher is not present. Students have the option of commencing and concluding the course saving enormous organizational effort at the far end of the terms. It provides educators practice with modernization. It guarantees that none of the courses are called off if less number of students takes them.

- **Disadvantages for Students**

Learners may be allured to delay the things so they should be made more self meticulous. It may raise the task on hand for the learners. It increases thought process among students.

- **Disadvantages for Teachers**

Teachers task become highly specific. The gap between teachers and learners is reduced. Teachers need to generate specific objects and updated documents have to be retained. Teachers have to attain specialized training to impart personalized learning.

- **Disadvantages for Administration**

It makes the administration to try modern things. Teachers specialized in Personalized learning are required to be recruited. It involves more efforts and cost.

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