Original Article

LEARNER –CENTRED LEARNING: AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING STYLES FOR ADULT LEANERS

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Abstract   Learning is an ongoing process and one cannot do without learning. Different types of learning method exist which enable the learners to gain knowledge, experience and skills in their learning areas. This proves that learning is synonymous with students. The traditional learning methods such as lecturing are teacher centered and therefore passive, while the modern learning methods are innovative, student centered and active on the part of learners. This paper therefore, discusses the theme, student centered learning: an innovative learning style for Adult learner. Discussed also under the team are learning styles, characteristics of Adult learners, students' centered learning style in teaching Adult Education.

Keywords: Learner centered learning, innovetive learning, Adult learners.

Introduction
Learning is an active process in which the learner builds on prior knowledge to select and transform information based on their own cognitive structure (patterns of mental action that form intellectual activity).Instructors develop a teaching style based on their beliefs about what constitutes good teaching, personal preferences, their abilities, and the norms of their particular discipline (Aldajah Haik moustafa 2014). Some believe that classes should be teacher-centered, where the teacher is expert and authority in presenting information. Others take a learner centered approach, viewing their role as more of a facilitator of student learning. Although people have a dominant, preferred teaching style, they will often mix in some elements of other styles. If one wishes to take a more open approach to ones learning, a blend of various styles may be very effective.

Adult learner could be considered as someone who has some felt need which requires attention and because of this need, he or she enrolled in different adult learning programme for training; to get knowledge and acquire skills to fulfill such needs or meet his / her life goals. Chukwuji (2017) stated that they seeks education that relates or applies directly to their percived needs, that is timely and apporpriate to their current lives. The adult learner first challenge is to understand what is it he / she want to learn before joining the adult class.

Education generally is a system deliberately designed to equip individuals with the desired knowledge, skills and attitudes which will help them live worthy and happy life in the society. The need and problem of the society change from time to time, so its education must change to meet the challenges of the society. Innovation is the introduction of new ideas or ways of doing things.

According to OECD in Syariff, Musa and Yusof (2020), education innovetion is the introduction of an improved or new processes, products, service,

new ways of managing activities in the education system. Educational innovation offers to Educational institutions the opportunity of introducing changes to solve the problems of the society and enables the institutions to produce people who are sensitive to problems in the society and are capable of finding solution.

The old method of teaching adult learners is lecture method. Lecture method centered on instructors alone, and adult learners become passive. Therefore adult learners should be taught using student centered learning.

Learning Styles

Learning stlye are defined as the complex maner in which, and conditions under which, leaners most effectively percive, process, store and recak what they are attempting to learn (James and Gardner Awla, 2014)

There are difference on how people process information and learn. Student centered teaching focuses on teaching for understanding (in the classroom or online which encourage learners to examine their current beliefs, enable them to explore and be exposed to new ways of thinking, and include experiences which require them to reformulate their understanding. Instructors and designers of learning experiences should have an awareness of the diversity of learning styles which allow them to include features that appeal to different kinds of learners and help students get the most, out of their learning experiences.This approach needs not to be taken to the extreme, but often small modification to a basic design can dramatically expand its utility for different learning styles. Instructors which focus on development of the "whole brain" including intuition, sensing, imagination as well as analysis, reason and sequential problem solving, will reach a greater portion of students with various learning styles.

Characteristics of Adult Learner

Adult learners have characteristics that make them different from youth learners.Chukwuji (2017) stated the following as the characteristic of adult learners.

Adult learners have accumulated life experiences: Adults come to school with experience and knowledge in diverse areas. They are realistic and have insights about what is likely to work and what is not. They are readily able to relate new facts to past experiences and enjoy having their talents and knowledge explored in a situation.

Established opinions, values and beliefs: Adults have established opinions, values and beliefs which have been built up over time and arrived at following experience of families, relationships, work community, polities etc. these views cannot be dismissed and must be respected.

Individual differences: Adults learn at various rates and in different ways according to their intellectual ability, educational level, personality and cognitive learning styles. Teaching strategies must anticipate and accommodate differing comprehension rates of learners.

Adults are Intrinsically motivated: learners increases their effort when motivated by a need, an interest, or a desire to learn, they are also motivated by the relevance of the material to be addressed and learn better when material is related to their own needs and interest. For learners to be fully engaged in learning, their attention must be fully focused on the material presented.

Adult learn best in a democratic participatory and collaborative environment.
They need to be actively involved in determining how and when they will learn, and they need active learning not passive learning experiences.

They are goal oriented / relevancy oriented: Adults need to know why they are concrete and immediate. They can be impatient with long discussions on theory and like to see theory applied to practical problems. They are task or problem centered rather than subject centered.

They are self-reliant learners and prefer to work at their own pace: Adult learns best when they are ready to learn and when they have identified their own learning needs, where a youth learner is directed by someone else to -attend a course.

Adults are practical and problem solvers: Adult are more impatient in the pursuit of learning

objectives. They are less tolerant of work that does not have immediate and direct application to their objectives. Problem-based learning exercises and welcomed as they build on prior experience and provide opportunity for practical application of materials / theories covered.

Learner - Centered Style in facilitating learning programme

Bearing in mind that every adult learner has his or her own learning needs and the learning needs vary according to the individual's social roles.

Therefore, student centered style in teaching and learning Adult education includes the following;

Demonstration Methods of Teaching

Demonstration involves showing by reason or proof, explaining or making clear by use of examples or experiments. Demonstration means to clearly show. It involves a combination of explanation with practical illustration. It is important to apply demonstration method in teaching all the concepts especially when the adult learner have a hard time connecting theories to actual practice or when the adult learner are unable to understand application of theories. Demonstration method shows the adult learners how things work and the procedure to be followed. The instructor should make sure that the materials are ready for teaching and that his actions are quite visible to the whole class. In this method, the class should be divided into small groups that will conduct the demonstration based on the topic mapped out by the facilitator. The groups carry out the demonstration one after the other, the demonstration technique is very relevant in facilitating adult learners especially on topics that are practical in nature. McKee and Laura, in pangaribuan, and purba (2022) stated that the demonstration performance method can be broken down into five basic procedures which are:

Explanation- give a step by step explanation of the required task -use reasons, examples and comparisms to make the explanation clear.

•**Demonstration** - give a perfect demonstration or if not practical show finished product.

•**Student's performance / instructor supervision** - the student should be allowed to perform the task in small segments. With the teacher providing close supervision and correction of each segment until the student perfects in the task.

Evaluation - the evaluation portion is where students get the opportunity to prove that they can perform the task without assistance.

Advantages of demonstration method

> Demonstration has more positive effect on student's performance.

> Develops practical skills.

> Invaluable method of teaching practical skills.

> Leads to development of ideas, understanding, concepts and attitudes by learner.

> It enhances student's performance.

> It is interesting.

Video Tape /Slide

It is visual presentation of subject matter on a screen on slide. The presenter need to obtain and set necessary equipment and then prepares for discussion after presentation. It is electronic presentation that may contain text and images that is usually viewed on computer screen or projected into a larger screen.

Video Tape / Slides method are the Entertaining way of introduction content and raising issue. It usually holds learners, attention and stimulates discuss. The Adult educator or presenter should acquire experiences in setting up the equipment effectively. This means that is requires careful planning by teacher to guide discussion after presenting the equipment.

Advantages

> It gives room for better retention because it makes understanding easier.

> It makes learner to be more alert.

> It is interesting and allows learners active participation.

Inquiry - Based Learning

In this approach, students pose and answer questions individually and or collaboratively in order to draw conclusions regarding the specific issues or scenarios. Within the educational setting, inquiry -

based learning has been beneficial in developing adult learner's inquiry, investigation, and collaboration skills, in turn, increasing overall comprehension of the issue or scenario (Mayer, 2004).

Conclusion

In conclusion adopting student-centered learning in teaching adult learners will at it core shows the learning skills and creativity of adult learners develop significantly,hence, improvment in adult learners learning. It makes learning fun, engaging and adopted to the learned needs and interest.

Suggestions

Based on the foreging discussion, the following suggestion**s** were made:

1.   Instructors should be using teaching method that will involve the adult learners.
2.   While the instruction is going on the adult educator should make sure that the adult learner is active, that is to say that the teaching must centre on the adult learners.
3.   Adult learners should be encouraged to investigate, experiment and construct ideas.
4.   Adult learners should also help to be creative in thinking.

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