Rote Learning; An Introspection

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Abstract

Rote Learning is a memorization technique based on repetition. Students generally memorize information through the method of regular repetition; this way of learning is referred to as rote learning. Students are introduced to rote learning at a very early stage, right from the time when they memorize the alphabets and numbers. Some of the alternatives of Rote Learning include meaningful learning, associative learning and active learning. In meaningful learning, the concept is fully understood by the students and the students can relate new information to which is already known. Whereas Rote Learning, includes verbatim memorization of new knowledge. The topic is chosen to bring awareness on the Rote Learning practice in schools and colleges. This kind of education is widely spread in all schools throughout Tamil Nadu.

The schools are mostly represented by the score and ranks of the students rather than any practical on extension activity. One of the major disadvantages of rote-memorizing is that it doesn't help the student develop his/her writing skills. As the student continues rote-memorizing, he/she answers questions in the exam using the words he memorized from the book. When you stop rote-memorizing, you need to learn the art of writing.

You should be able to write the exam in your own words. Rote Learning is used to learn facts, names, figures, numbers, dates and other piece of information. Being able to understand something may rely on understanding the sequence as well as understanding of individual events. The main idea behind saying no to rote learning is that one must truly learn things well to be able to use it in real world, because that is what education is all truly about.

Keywords; Rote Learning, Memorization, Meaningful learning, Associative learning, Active learning

Rote Learning

Rote learning is an old and, some might say, out-dated method of teaching. Many classrooms in the west are moving away from rote learning onto more advantaced methods. Nonetheless, rote learning is still useful when a student needs to learn the order of things like the Alphabet or numbers. Counting songs, multiple times table charts all help the student learn by rote. Rote learning doesn't allow students to develop a deeper meaning of a subject or extend their understanding by putting the information into practice it can be very useful.

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Doesn't Encourage Interaction or Social Skills

Critics explain that rote learning doesn't encourage interaction or social skills in the classroom either. Another issue in the classroom is that it's boring and students will lose focus easily if they are required to. Students are required to learn social skills in the classroom that involves them working on a project in teams. This will give them the skills they need when they go to work. There are very few jobs where one is required to work completely alone. Students need to know how to communicate their ideas and concerns in a non-threatening way. There is no link between memorization (aided by rote learning) and intelligence. In fact, learning to repeat back facts like a robot can often mask a student's real understanding of the topic. There is no doubt that rote learning does have a place but it should only be implemented when a student needs to learn the facts. It should be followed by intensive based acquisition of a deeper knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.

Children Feel Disinterested in Their Studies

Monotonous repetition of study matter makes a child feel disinterested and also tedious. They slowly begin to dis-engage from the subject matter due to monotony and over time lose their passion for learning.

Subject Matter Is Not Fully Understood

Rote Learning employs raw rehearsal and mnemonics to ensure memorisation of content, without paying due attention to understanding. Instead of learning to apply the concepts beyond the classroom, children only learn what they need to score well in tests.

Memorisation, an Ephemeral

Mindless parroting of textbook material leads to short term memorisation making it a waste of a child's energy and effort.

Problem-solving Not Prioritised

Rote learning only covers one spectrum of education—memorisation. It does not explain concepts and ideas and leaves children without the necessary critical thinking skills needed to succeed in an informative rich world.

Real-life Application Dodged

Real-life application is essential so that the children can easily relate and understand information better. If ignored, a child may find it difficult to transfer theoretical knowledge to life.PC enabled learning offers an elegant solution to the disadvantages of rote learning. Starting young will help and ensure that a child develops a positive relationship with learning instead of a stress inducing notion.

Perplexity of Rote Learning

According to a nationwide survey by EZVidya, 80% of principals believe that the emphasis on rote learning is leading to the poor quality of our education system. WIPRO recently conducted a study that found that the practice of rote learning was equally prevalent in the country's top schools. Some attribute the focus on rote learning to the traditional practice of

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memorising religious texts, whether the Vedas, the Quran, or others. Another faction states that this system was put in place by the British during colonial rule as a way to suppress critical thinking. Either way, rote learning has been the staple of the Indian education system for many years. While many Indians have attained success despite this system, simply being able to recall information is not enough in today's world when that information is instantly available to anyone with a mobile phone. A survey of 200 Indian and foreign companies found that only 14% of Indian graduates were prepared for the workforce, largely because most graduates were unable to apply their knowledge to solve real-world problems.

Rote learning today is a staple in schools across the country. Not just teachers but even parents, find themselves saying "mug up and you'll pass" to help their children make it through their exams. Defined as the memorization of facts which you may or may not understand by repeating them multiple times, rote learning is the first option for stressed out students.

Forget the Facts Next Day!
The problem is that one will remember the facts for a day or so, write the exam paper and then forget them the next day. Memorization is a valuable skill; there are things you have to memorize such as passwords, PINs, birthdays, the alphabet and formulas. Yet, when it comes to long-term understanding of a subject, raw rehearsal (parroting facts) and mnemonics (utilizing abbreviations) fail to do justice to your child's potential.

What Is the Alternative?
Parents want their children to do well and stand on their own feet, whether it's topping entrance exams to get into the best institutes or pursuing new age career choices. PC Enabled learning is an alternative method that will help realize a child's untapped potential. The PC can be used both at home and within the classroom to actively engage a child. It offers children access to a wide range of resources enables easy revision of the course work and allows them to explore every aspect of a subject.

When a child participates in the learning process instead of just rote learning, it leaves a lasting and positive impression. Focusing on seeing or making theories come to life, unravel problems and generating ideas are the building blocks to deeper learning. When children are able to master subject matter using this approach, the impact will most definitely multiply. It is not easy to move away from an ingrained thought process which emphasizes rote learning, but PC enabled learning offers children a head start in this competitive world. A PC or laptop at home help's child to conduct independent research, learn effectively and prepare for a technology dependent economy.

Do Something Over and Over Again
Instead of letting someone repeat the correct way to do something over and over again, you actively let him/her them to do it wrong. A good way to pass a ball is to use inside of the foot. I let them do this, but also tell them to do it in every other way possible. They have to use the outer part of their foot. They have to use the back of their foot. They have to use the bottom of their foot. They even have to pass the ball with their shin.

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This way they learn to control the ball and pass it austerely much quicker. They are immediately exposed to the differences between correct and inferior techniques. That's why it's called differential learning. The kids learn to adapt and find their own style. Most importantly, the brain doesn't get bored and keeps learning and learning.

Some Logical Conclusions

How to Do Away with Rote Learning? First step to touch any topic is comprehension. Students must be encouraged to read the information multiple times; slowly, understanding and absorbing each word as they do so. Instead of looking for meaning of each word and sentence, they must be able to link them and draw out the essence of whole topic. Once they have understood the topic, they must be able to recall it. They must focus on recalling the concept of the topic instead of recalling the text they just read as it is. Once they can recall the concept successfully, teachers must inspire students to explain the topic using their own words. Instead of memorizing the answers as it is, this activity allows students to form answers in their own language. It improves their ability to express themselves and facilitates the art of writing.

The main idea behind saying no to rote learning is that one must truly learn things well enough to be able to use it in real world problem solving, because that is what education is all truly about. While for the obvious reason, one can't completely say no to rote learning, it is important to take necessary steps to make sure that rote learning doesn't become a habit. IPS Academy has an excellent faculty team which has trained and skilled educators. Our faculty makes sure that they explain every topic evidently; giving a deep insight into the concepts so that their students can grasp the information. Comprehension of topic must always be targeted above memory. Thus, Rote Learning is an insipid insight for the learners which act as a bridle for their introspection.

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