



Importance of lifelong learning for the development of school teachers

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Abstract

The growing speed of new technologies and Globalization influences the needs to improve the personal skills and competence. Nowadays there are increasingly important basic skills in ever changing technological universe. Ability to learn and adapt to the new are needed new skills. Lifelong learning should be process of continuous learning that directed towards not only providing the individual needs, also that of the relevant community. It gives second changes to update basic skills and also offering learning opportunities at more advanced level. Learning opportunities throughout people's lives in order to foster the continuous development and improvement of the knowledge and skills needed for employment and personal fulfillment. Lifelong learning is the common umbrella under which all kinds of formal and informal and non-formal teaching and learning should be united. In 21st century, needed teaching skills are entirely different from the past. Present teachers should equip with various new technological teaching skills through in-service courses. This paper describes the need and benefits of lifelong learning for the professional development of 21st century teacher society.

Keywords: life long learning, school teachers, 21st century skills

Introduction

Education is not preparation for life, it is life itself.

The growing speed of new technologies and Globalization influences the needs to improve the personal skills and competence. Ability to learn and adapt to the new lifestyle are needed basic skills for the harmonious survival. Learning opportunities throughout people's lives in order to foster the continuous development and improvement of the knowledge and skills needed for employment and personal fulfillment. The world is positive about its potential for economic and political progress in the 21st century. The trends and characteristic of globalization perhaps call for a total re-invention or repacking of the teaching profession. The teacher in the globalized environment must be prepared to think globally and act locally in matters relating to education.

Definition of lifelong learning

LLL is the process of constant learning and development that incorporates continuous professional development, in which all individuals need to engage in a time of rapid change.

Learning in which a person engages throughout the life. It includes but is not limited to learning that occurs in schools and formal educational programs.

Ongoing learning in formal, non-formal, and informal ways, cradle to grave learning and knowledge building.

Lifelong learning is the continuous development of skills and knowledge to enhance quality of life and employment prospects.

Lifelong learning is the process occurs at all times in all places.

LLL includes the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors' that people acquire in their day-to-day experiences.

Meaning of lifelong learning

We are responsible for our own learning and when students

own their learning, it sticks with them. The practice of learning from mistakes is one of the best lifelong learning skills. We must treat mistakes as opportunities. The growing society naturally gives a thirst for learning and growing.

Lifelong learning means that learning should take place at all stages of life from the cradle to the grave. LLL is the continuous building of skills and knowledge during one's life and that occurs through experiences faced in their lifetime. LLL provides second chances to update the basic skills. LLL refers the activities performed throughout the life to improve knowledge, skills and competence in a particular field or profession. It gives continuous development and improvement needed for the professional fulfillment.

Need for lifelong learning

The development of nation depends largely on the human resources rather than the material resources. The human resources only developed by education. Education is a very powerful instrument of social change, provided if it is in the right manner. Education not only brings social change, it also validates and confirms these social changes and then moulds itself according to these social changes. System of education has been varying from time to time, in accordance with the environment and the stage of human experience obtaining at a particular time. The society expects the educational institutions to shoulder the responsibility of making powerful India. The development of the individuals enriches and improves society. Globalization and advancements in technology are driving changes in the society. As society changes, the skills that is students need to be successful in life also change. Education is meaningful, purposeful and goal oriented. It is an active process of behavioral changes taking place through classroom interaction. It helps an individual to move towards the goal set by following clear-cut paths.

A teacher needs up to date knowledge for discharging his/her duties to the entire satisfaction of the emerging society. The teacher have to illuminate themselves as a lamp, having

enough energy in the form of burning oil for lighting the mind and hearts of the students future. Teacher should aware the latest development and challenges in education.

Benefits of lifelong learning

People need to upgrade their skills throughout their adult lives to cope with modern life, both in their work and in their personal lives. This will be achievable through learning. The learning society is the vision of a society where there are recognized opportunities for learning for every person wherever they are and however old they should be. LLL is about acquiring skills that enable us to survive. Lifelong learners are not merely consumers of learning facilities, but they actively contribute to the facilities themselves. LLL contains all kinds of teaching and learning and the practice of LLL demands everyone work together effectively, both as individuals and in organizations.

- LLL makes communities more productive and innovative.
- LLL trains new skills to face new challenges and demands.
- LLL strengthens the level of capacity in the economy.
- LLL sharpens the mind and improves memory power.
- LLL helps to gain confidence in ability to learn and to share the information.
- LLL develops interpersonal skills.
- LLL enhances the career opportunities and self-esteem.
- LLL gives sense to refresh and retrain to get promotions.
- LLL opens the mind to the new level of enlightenment.
- LLL increases wisdom and creates a curious, hungry mind.
- LLL helps us to adapt changes.
- LLL keeps us involved as active contributors to the society.
- LLL helps us make new friends and establish valuable relationships.
- LLL leads to an enriching life of self-fulfillment.

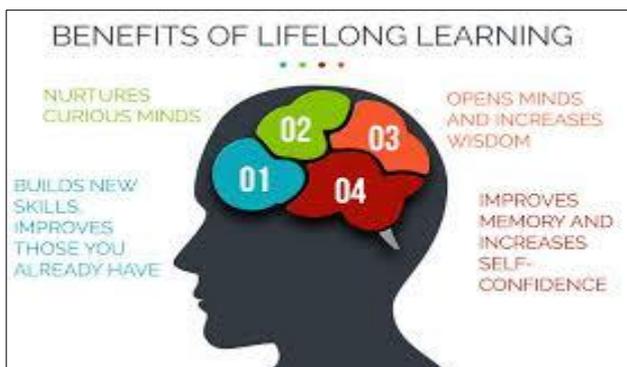


Fig 1

Objectives of lifelong learning

- Educating human resources for the future.
- To provide quality adult education and continuing training for everyone.
- To develop India as an advanced knowledge based society, with sustainable economic development.
- To foster cooperation and mobility between education and training systems for future generations.
- As vehicle for accelerating the pace of development.
- To ensure participation of special needs and disadvantaged groups, regardless of their socio-

economic development.

Challenges for teachers

Today’s students are digital natives’ and net generation. The assumption is that these students have automatically gained skills to use ICT as they have grown up in the knowledge society. Net generation students are ready and willing to study with ICT and that they prefer discovery-based and collaborative learning practices. Schools and teachers as immigrants in the digital world, suggesting that teachers are using outdated language. Teachers need knowledge about technology, pedagogy and content. In addition, the students who own a smart-phone and/or a laptop are encouraged to use their own devices in their university studies. This way they can have experiences of using their own devices for learning purposes.

Teacher’s role in the modern world

The teacher’s most important task includes:

1. Understanding and working in a defined school system
2. Developing skills as well as the applied strategies and methods
3. Teaching in the context of extended existing program
4. Integrating theory with practice
5. Responding to social demands and problems
6. Creating an atmosphere that facilitates learning
7. Working in a group as a team member
8. Assessing and forming lifelong learning habits

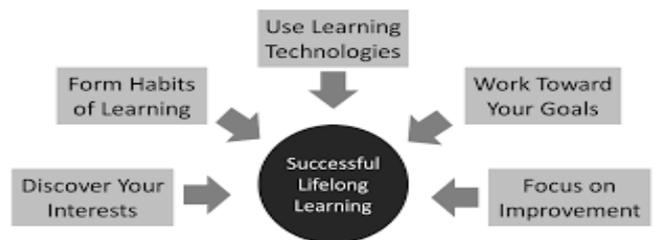


Fig 2

Lifelong learning methods

- **Formal learning:** It is well planned and has a structure, it is used in classes, seminars, conference etc.
- **Informal learning:** the daily work an individual does or any self-taught material.
- **Non-formal learning:** It is structured and related indirectly to formal education.

Conclusion

People are gaining new knowledge and skills from their life experiences. This is LLL. LLL is about learning what one wants to learn, how one wants to learn and when one wants to learn it. LLL can help one to learn new skills or to get a better job. LLL can help people keep up with the latest technologies, and gain knowledge or skills needed. LLL benefits individuals, communities and the economy, as it provides individuals with the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and understanding they’ll need in life, it makes communities more productive and innovative, as workers create and discover new abilities and ideas. The more skills, knowledge and ability that individuals develop, the greater the level of capacity in the economy would be. A stronger economy means citizens benefit from the chance to earn more, live better and contribute to the economic system. It concludes that national developments depend upon the

people's lifelong education skills.

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