



ISSN: 2349-5448

Intercontinental Journal of Pharmaceutical Investigations and Research (ICJPIR)

ICJPIR | Vol.10 | Issue 4 | Oct - Dec -2023

www.icjpir.com

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.61096/icjpir.v10.iss4.2023.51-57>

Review

Critical analysis: strategies in improving first year college students result in recent era across Indian colleges

Kumanan R*, Sudha S¹, Sriram N²

^{*1}Professor, Devaki Amma Memorial College of Pharmacy, Near Calicut University, Chelambra, Malappuram, Kerala – 673634, India

²Principal, Florence college of pharmacy, Irba, N.H.33, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India.

*Author for Correspondence: R.Kumanan

Email: rkumanan@rediffmail.com

	Abstract
Published on: 22 Dec 2023	Indian college students mindset in modern days are attention seeking as well as not focused on their career or studies. Students are lacking many moral support, educational study materials, proper references from different sources of information related to their professional area. Many students have no proper guidance or no idea regarding passing all their first-year subjects and have lack of interest. Since their school mindset is still continued and not making them to behave as a college student. Their expectations are same as school level of educational practices. wherein at college the pattern of studies and educational design is entirely different unlike school studies. They lack interest in gathering the study materials and are not involved in group studies along with their classmates or friends, which is also helpful. This article focus only towards the mindset of a first year college students and measures to be implemented or followed for passing their first year studies. This critical analysis and our case studies may definitely bring some changes among the freshers of college going students.
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	Keywords: study practices, critical thinking, teaching methodology, outcome based education

INTRODUCTION

Critical thinking

Critical thinking is a fundamental skill that develops early learning exercises and varied activities, depending on the actual educational situation (static context) and critical thinking development stage (dynamic context). Critical thinking is based on knowledge updating, analyzing differences and comparisons, namely the establishment of similarities and differences, observing and identifying cause-effect relationships, extracting ideas from examples (inductive) support ideas with examples and evaluation on the value of truth, utility, positive or negative effects.

Understanding critical thinking in education is the process of thinking to make a decision from various foundations such as evidence, methods, criteria, context, conceptualization and relevant sources of information. A student / prospective teacher who thinks critically then he will be able to:

1. Recognize various issues in education easily.

2. Identify, analyze the cause of the problem and the degree of relationship of a particular problem.
3. Able to make solutions and evaluate them as formulating problems related to their education.
4. There by critical thinking in the world of education is very important because it will improve the skills and professionalism in its activities in education.

Someone who has critical thinking skills will get many benefits both within the scope of the class (learning in college) in the world of work or in community life. From some definitions can be concluded that, understanding of the ability to think critically has the meaning of the power of thought that must be built on the learner so that a character or personality is imprinted in the learner's life to solve all problems of his life by identifying any information received then able to evaluate and then summarize it systematically and then able to express an opinion in an organized way¹.

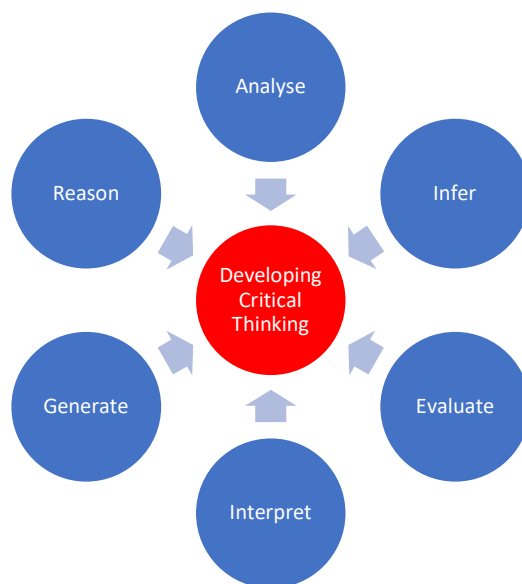


Fig 1: Developing critical thinking skills²

Stress and social support

Mental health in university/college students in recent years has become a critical issue across India and other countries, with alarming suicide rates and evidence of mental ill-ness symptoms developing in college and university students with no previous history. Although some stress can be motivationally beneficial in university settings, problematic levels of anxiety and de-pression are often experienced when college students are faced with compounded stressful events without adequate support. First-year students in particular are vulnerable to psychological challenges due to the transition to university exacerbating existing causes of stress, with high levels of stress paired with maladaptive coping strategies linked to depression in first-year students. In addition to mental health consequences, stress has also been found to affect first-year students' physical health, retention, adjustment, educational experiences, as well as well-being and academic performance³.

Factors affecting the Academic performance of the Indian college students

Now we have to find solution for the problem of the factors affecting the Academic performance of the Indian college students. The experts (Academicians) found the following factors are affecting the academic performance (positively or negatively) of the Indian college students⁴.



Fig 2: Factors affecting the Academic performance of the Indian college students

Case analytics

since this is their first semester or year course of their concerned departments or stream. So, as an entry level of the subject approaches only will be kept for brushing up their knowledge about their course is being incorporated as subjects. It will be a basic subject(s) only and any higher secondary schooling completed student can get pass easily. Only thing the students can concentrate is

1. Sitting with their fullest concentration towards each individual classes
2. Attending all the classes or maximum classes of their particular subject may impact well.
3. Interaction with their concern teacher is advisable when they are having doubts about any topics/content delivery of that class session.
4. First year students must be well behaved while in the study campus during their stay.
5. Maintaining their punctuality in attending the classes along with dress codes if any must be practiced well.
6. Regularity in preparing their daily notes by referring different textbooks at library.
7. Students can afford their own textbooks if possible. Owning few important books also may create a hidden interest in making them to study well because its readily available with them all the time. Many students claim this reason for not preparing regularly.
8. First year students can identify and choose a good mindset classmate for subject related discussions if any required.
9. Students should not look at their teacher as their enemy because of their strictness in certain activities towards your betterment.
10. At any cost a first-year students should not carry forward their arrear papers, this quote means a lot in not having failures during their first-year main exams. It will be having a very crucial role in your successful completion of your course.
11. First year course period will be providing you a greater number of working days while comparing with the consecutive years in future. So, plan comfortably in clearing your papers at the time itself.
12. Students have to choose their course as per their interest. Parents should consider their ward's priority. This may ensure the successful completion of their studies.
13. In this era, everybody free to choose their course of interest irrespective of considering their religion, caste, community barriers etc. students can convince their parents in this aspect.

As a teacher few things to be practiced for making the first-year students to get pass in all the subjects prescribed by the particular university or educational governing bodies.

1. Teachers should be very much active and interested in delivering day-to-day lectures or classes, so that the students can listen to your classes undoubtedly.
2. Teachers can prepare themselves well in advance to do their best in teaching their lessons
3. Teachers should not be partial in treating the students. Must treat everyone equally.

4. Don't argue or discourage with the students in this modern era. Understand the situation and be polite in answering to them.
5. Don't show hatred towards any particular student(s) for their silly mistakes or behaviors if any. Give them time to learn from their mistakes.
6. Teachers please don't feed the students by providing your own content or information about the particular chapter or topics. Instead, ask them to refer and make their own study notes.
7. Guide them to get the source materials and show them the way to collect and maintain their subject notes unit wise.
8. Plan a lecture as much as possible to correlate with your practical knowledge and making them more attached towards that area.
9. Make a healthy relation with each and every student. Understand their problems and try to solve their issues if any possibly.
10. Be a good guide for them not a best teacher, this mantra is applicable especially for college students.
11. Teachers have to act smart because there are several sources of information where the students can google.
12. Teachers should motivate the students and provide moral support all the time.
13. Student's satisfaction towards their learning will be considered as the utmost parameter in the college campus

Suggestion or workout plan

1. Plan for a mentor-mentee systems with each individual teacher-student among the class. Not by making a small group with one teacher and few students, this will be a namesake one instead plans for subject teacher with each individual student is preferable. Reason behind this is one to one learning and improving each individual attention and creating a transparent lecture session even for a least understanding student level.
2. Teachers should plan and ask questions from the previously completed portions among the class students randomly.
3. Checking their class running notes daily after completion of each lecture session randomly if time doesn't permit to check everyone in the class.
4. Plan to conduct a surprise test once in a month for making them to recall their earlier discussed chapters.
5. Plan for a model end exam / university exam before appearing their original exam. So that students may get to know and practice well as well as adopt their timings and present well by sorting out their mismanagement if any.
6. Do not pressurize for doing the things, let the student realize and get involved by their own. Provide a space for the students to learn from their mistakes eventually.
7. Involvement of first year students in sports activities and arts celebrations are to be minimized until they pass their first year examinations.
8. Plan a revision class by engaging the students to make their own seminar on the completed portions of all the first-year subjects. It must be monitored by the concerned class subject handling teacher(s).
9. Ask the students to get involved in individual subject's quiz
10. Students should be trained in giving a schematic representation and diagrammatic presentation of the study matter instead of explaining the concept in paragraphs.
11. Teachers must ensure a legible handwriting practice from students and entertain them to continue until they complete their course.
12. Teachers should create a friendly environment at the college campus for comforting the first year students to pass in all the subjects.
13. Teachers can try some modifications in teaching and learning practices effectively.
14. Teachers should understand the learner's way of thinking and doing.
15. Teachers should concentrate on why few students don't learn, initiate action plan immediately and look for a positive outcome.
16. A fact must be noted "telling is not a teaching; listening is not a learning"
17. Teachers must apply all the teaching and learning methods to make them pass easily.
18. Teachers be aware modern era students don't entertain the conventional class teaching practices instead go for a different modern tools and ideology for making their class more interesting.
19. Try to reach your lecture to be reachable to the last bench of a student and make ensure their understanding level at each lecture.
20. Make sure to include student-centered-learning pedagogy in your class.
21. Parents role is very crucial in improving student's first year results. Parents have to support their ward's choice of selecting their courses. Parents should give them liberty to choose their career making plan and respect their choices too.

22. Management and principal should ensure about the workload(s) of a first-year handling faculty. those faculty must be left free to handle completely as a dedicated one for achieving the first-year student results purpose only and not allotted to handle any other extra subjects apart from first year workload till the completion of that particular batch. In this case it can be a middle average level of experienced people must be selected depends upon their availability at their institutions level itself.

With this dedicated staffs we can do wonder in their results and make every student to get pass their first-year subjects without any hurdles. Ultimately the pass percentage of their class will be hundred percent.

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is statistical method used in education sector:

UNESCO defines GER as the total enrolment in a country in a specific level of education regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the official group corresponding to this level of education. The government of India releases the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report which accesses the GER. According to the report the following states have GER numbers from highest to lowest are as mentioned below.

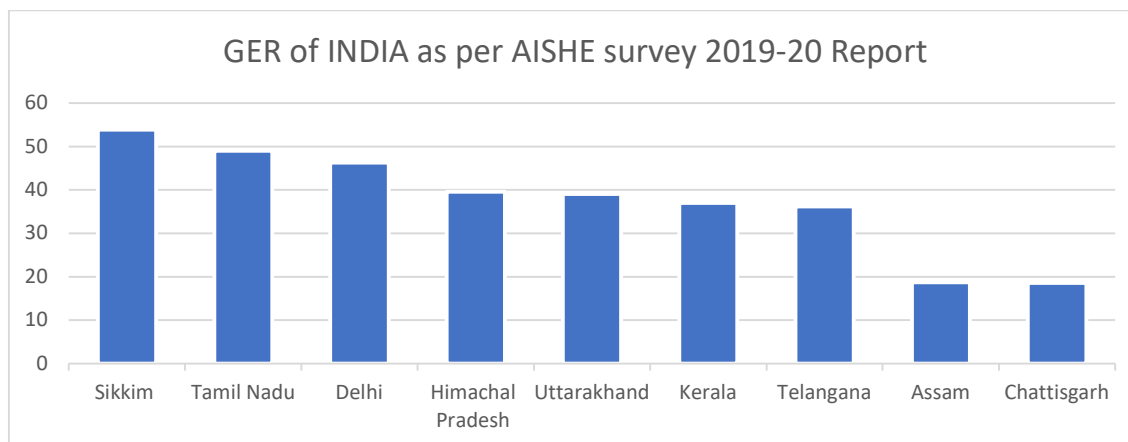


Fig 3: GER of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report

Tamil Nadu ranks with a GER of 49, followed by Delhi (46.3), Himachal Pradesh (39.6), Uttarakhand (39.1), Kerala (37), and Telangana (36.2) in that order (36.2). Bihar has the lowest GER among the big states, at 13.6, followed by Chhattisgarh and Assam, which have GERs of 18.6 and 18.7, respectively. The fact behind the above GER is the successful completion of the course by each student is very lesser comparatively by the different factors which is affecting the student's career and we should take a necessary step in improving the current situation⁵.

Priorities for system reform as per British council report 2014 identified four key priorities for system reform emerged is that, quality assurance, international credit recognition, a unifying national qualifications framework and teacher development.

The council focused on teaching and learning evaluation include mainly on teacher development. The primary concern for all institutions interviewed was the poor quality of teaching in higher education across all levels of study, particularly at undergraduate level. Interviewees recognized that poor learning outcomes in many Indian institutions had at its roots the following interrelated issues:

- Lack of teaching skills in faculty and limited understanding of the learning process
- The use of outdated pedagogies (input oriented, lecture-based approaches, rather than student-centred, enquiry driven and outcomes-based)
- Lack of an effective quality assurance system for teaching and learning.
- Outdated and inflexible curriculum
- A rigid assessment system, which encourages rote-learning and does not test students' broader skills or deeper learning.⁶

Rote learning is a memorization technique based on repetition. The method rests on the premise that the recall of repeated material becomes faster the more one repeats it.

Some of the alternatives to rote learning include meaningful learning, associative learning, spaced repetition and active learning.

Rote learning is advised to first year students instead of meaningful learning since their course and concept itself is new for them in consecutive year of their study they can be automated to meaningful learning.

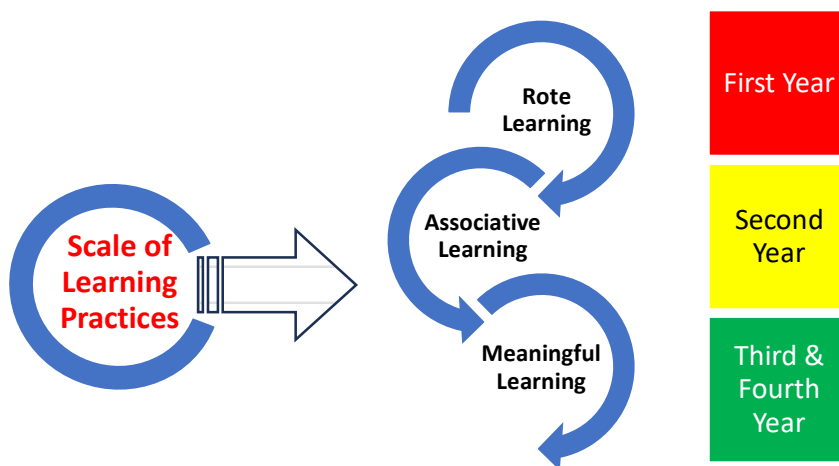


Fig 4: Expressions of rote learning and meaningful learning at a scale of learning practices

CONCLUSION

For a better performance teacher and student must involve and workout well for an effective teaching and learning practices. we conclude that the Teaching methods in the colleges/universities as well as the facilities in the college/university play a vital role in the academic performance of the Indian college student. Hence the academic institutions must take necessary steps to strengthen the above factors and that leads to a brighter future in the academic performance in the individual student. At the same time, we can control the remaining factors also like awareness about the career and the courses as well consequences about their successful completion of the course by concentrating in the above vital factors.

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