

Chapter 1

Introduction

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1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Education

Education is a social concept, philosophically evolved, psychologically developed and socially based. It is no more mere instructions or communications of knowledge, but also the acquisition of useful skills. Education is as old as the human race itself. Parents, teachers, politicians, reformers, social workers religious leaders and so on, are all equally interested in it. Hence education has been regarded as Sine qua non of all human societies.

Education is a light that shows the mankind the right direction to surge. The purpose of education is not just making a student literate but adds rationale thinking, knowledge-ability and self Sufficiency. When there is willingness to change, there is hope for progress in any field. Creativity can be developed and innovation benefits both students and teachers.

Education, therefore, is a process of living and not a preparation for future living. “Whatever the experience the child has in the school must be real and vital to him like that of home or neighborhood, since the school is a reflection of the larger society outside its walls, in which life can be learned by living”.

When education of all aspects is necessary to live a best life, many disciplines are added in the curriculum. Political science is one of them.

1.1.2 Meaning of Political Science

Political Science is a social science discipline concerned with the study of the state, nation, government and politics, and policies of government. Aristotle defined it as the study of the state. It deals extensively with the theory and practice of politics, and the analysis of political systems, political behavior and political culture. Political Science intersects with other fields, including economics, law, sociology, history, anthropology, public administration, public policy, national politics, international relations, comparative politics, psychology, political organization and political theory. Although it was codified in the 19th century, when all the social sciences were established, Political Science has ancient roots; indeed, it originated almost 2,500 years ago with the works of Plato and Aristotle. The term ‘Political Science’ is intimately related to the word “Politics”, which itself is derived from the Greek word, “Polis”, that means a city-state, the general

form of political organization in ancient Greece. The origin of political thought in the west, therefore, goes back to Greece.

1.1.3 Evolution of Political Science as a discipline

Politics is an ongoing process which aims at achieving the well-being of individuals in the organized society by solving their problems to the greatest extent possible. Aristotle called politics as a “master science”. For David Easton, politics is an attempt at “authoritative allocation of values”. Robert Dahl and Harold J. Laski explain politics as a special case in the exercise of power. Michael Oakeshott in his book “Political Education” attempts to define political activity as an activity in which human beings related to one another as members of a civil association think and speak about arrangements and conditions of their associations from the point of view of their desirability of the proposed changes and act in such a manner as to promote the changes.

Thus, the meaning of the word ‘politics’ remains unclear and is used with different meanings by different people, some political thinkers distinguish between political science as a systematic study of the theoretical aspects of political process and politics as the practical side of the social process.

Seeley says, “Political Science investigates the phenomena of Government as Political Economy deals with Wealth, Biology with life, and Algebra with numbers and Geometry with space and magnitude.”

1.1.4 Nature and Scope of Political Science

The nature of Political Science is dynamic as it includes the study of wide range of things so it keeps growing and developing. It includes not only the study of the government and the state but also the role of individuals in the state. By the term ‘scope’, we mean the breadth, comprehensiveness, variety and extent of the learning experiences, the utility in the real life situations, provided through the teaching of social science. The subject is important for its subject matter as well as the skills it develops among the students as a responsible citizen of the society. It ensures intelligibility and extension of experiences rather than mere verbal memorization of facts. The world is small and interdependent. What is happening in most remote areas of the globe affects us considerably. The world is united in terms of communication, transportation and fear for the future. The world is also divided in the way that unites people and nations in favor of or against an ideology, an economic alliance or a defense alliance. Obviously, one cannot

be a good citizen in today's world without a general understanding of some of the major realities of the world as a whole.

Political Science includes the study of state and the nation and neither the state nor the nation can be taught in isolation. Thus, the scope of social sciences and especially Political Science is very wide because it includes the knowledge of every sphere of life as may be called social, political, economic, religious, cultural, psychological, philosophical, etc.

1.1.5 Objectives of Teaching Political Science

The main aim of teaching Political Science is to help individuals develop into responsible, critical, reflective and productive citizens.

Students will be able to:

- Understand the need for learning of Political Science in secondary classes.
- Develop a critical understanding about the aims and objectives of Political Science in a Democratic and Secular country.
- Develop a critical understanding about the nature and philosophy of Political Science and its interface with society.
- engage with the classroom processes in Political Science
- Understand the nature of Political Science curriculum and its Pedagogical issues.
- Understand the basic ideals of our constitution.
- Develop as responsible and active citizens in a democracy.
- Understand the significance of national integration.
- Understand the importance of international relations.
- Realize the significance of peace and the protection of basic human rights.
- Organize co-curricular activities and use community resources for learning Political Science.

1.1.6 Activity based teaching method

Quality of education basically depends on the method of teaching adopted by the teachers in the classroom. Generally, child centred and participatory approach should be followed in the classroom transactions. Teaching through activities thus yields good results among the students in teaching-learning process. A variety of interactive activities designed based on social constructionist principles had stimulated interest and involvement in the learning process with the positive outcome of seeing students actually participating in the construction of their own knowledge rather than being passive learners.

Activity based learning or ABL gives a range of pedagogical approaches to teaching. Its core premise involves the requirement that learning should be depending upon doing some hands-on experiments and activities. The idea of activity-based learning is rooted in the common notion that children learn actively rather than passive recipients of information. They are active participants. ("Activity Based Learning in India,"2011)

The National Knowledge Commission (NKC, 2009) recommends that teaching of political science as a subject should be introduced from class 6th in school. It requires pedagogical changes to contextualize this learning. ABL suits the situation. The importance thing about political science is, it is always in talk. Governments of different kinds are example of democracy and its knowledge to a child is very important for the betterment of future. And also when the political science is direct related to life, it is not animpossible task to teach it via activity method. So, the researcher has picked up the idea to develop activity-based learning program to political science. The ABL will provide various task- based activities to the students of 9th standard to enhance their knowledge.

1.1.7 Importance of activity based teaching method

Activity based method of teaching provides learner with hope in tackling the practical problems by using their own resources. It also plays a very useful tool in improving the existing conditions in our society. Activity based method of teaching helps a teacher to win the interest and attention of the pupils. It motivates the students to physical and mental activity. It saves time and makes learning effective and durable. Studies have shown that pupils retain the knowledge through activities; for a much longer time as compared to the subject-matter learnt in the absence of such activities. It helps the pupils to get first-hand experience by looking at concrete things, living specimens and actual demonstrations, handling the apparatus and performing the practical themselves.

By adopting Activity based method of teaching the following criteria are used to observe student improvement.

- Increased understanding of the topic.
- Improved interpersonal skills.
- Willingness to participate in group activities.
- Ability to relate the topic to real life examples.

1.2 Statement of the problem:

Considering the above argument, the following problem was chosen for extensive and detailed study.

1.3 Justification of the study

After going through various research works in the field of effectiveness of instructional strategy and other related literature, it was found by researcher that many researches have been conducted in the field of effectiveness of activity-based learning, over traditional method of teaching but very less work is done in the field of using different strategies **together** to teach Political Science. There are some abstract concepts in Political Science, which need special attention while teaching. By considering all regards, the present research to develop and to check the effectiveness of activity based teaching to teach 'some topics from political science. This research was developmental cum experimental hence it's an effort to find efficacy of the Activity based teaching over traditional method of teaching.

1.4 Objectives of the study

1. To study the effectiveness of Activity based methods of teaching employed during Teaching-Learning Process.
2. To find and measure the Change in the level of achievement of the pupils due to the Activity based methods of teaching.
3. To evaluate the use of Activity based methods of teaching in political science subject.

1.5 Hypothesis

Following hypothesis were formed:

1. There is no significance difference between the Mean scores of the experimental group and control group on Pre – test in achievement in Political Science
2. There is significance difference between the Mean scores of the experimental group on the Post – test in achievement in Political Science

1.6 Sample and sampling technique

Formal operational stage described by Piaget is good to check about the concept formation. Therefore 48 students from St. Xaviers School, Dharahra ,Balliafrom class 9th were selected for the study.

The school for the experiment was selected on the basis of feasibility and willingness to cooperate on part of the school authorities. Thus, purposive sampling was used.

1.7 Method

Pre test post test true experimental design was used to conduct this study. The tool was developed by researcher to collect data. A test entitled '**Political science concepts achievement test "PSCAT"**' was constructed and standardized by researcher himself and has been used as a tool in this study.

Researcher visited school and selected two section of class 9th for the study. Researcher also considered section 'A' as control group and section 'B' as experimental group. First achievement test was administered and researches tried to find out significance in mean difference of scores. After that researcher taught students of section B with activity based teaching method. After teaching again significance in mean difference of scores of groups was calculated.

In this way researcher tried to find out the importance of activity based teaching.

1.8 Tool of the study

Political science concepts achievement test "PSCAT", which is prepared by the investigator himself, is used for data collection. Test consists of three areas of political science. These are taken as a dimension. It consists 20 items and each item has four alternative responses. One mark was awarded for each correct answer. 30 minutes were allotted for the test.

1.9 Delimitations of the study

The present investigation was delimited in terms of content of subject matter, area, demography and sample. These delimitations were to complete it successfully in time. Following are the delimitations of the study:

1. The content of the subject matter consists of understanding of concepts in political science. Out of many numbers of areas in political science only three were selected.
2. From among many teaching methods only activity based teaching was selected for the study.
3. Students were selected only from the Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh.