

A role of commerce lab in activity based learning in commerce education

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Abstract- Commerce education is neither a traditional education like arts & fine arts nor a technical education like medical & engineering but it involved skill and practical's regarding business activities. So there should be need of practicals and activity based education like seminar, Group Discussion, Role playing, actual work experience.

Today commerce education does not give emphasis on practical work & skill. So that commerce graduates from different universities are not able to get job immediately. The University of Pune has introduced practicals to selected subjects like Accountancy, banking & finance, costing & marketing etc from 1994. The University has also suggested developing commerce lab to conduct practicals in the college. Still, there is a problem of implementation of practicals. There is a need of commerce laboratory for efficient implementation and activitybased learning of practicals in commerce subject because, it gives practical knowledge & skill of the different subjects and activities related to commerce. It also helps to conduct different experiments and demonstration in the commerce lab.

In this study an attempt has been made to find out, to what extent commerce lab and practicals introduced by University of Pune, are mostly based on Activity based learning and will help to improve the quality of commerce education.

This study is mostly depends on oral information, observation& field visits of researcher. This study shows that the practicals,&activity based learning in commerce lab help to improve the quality of commerce education.

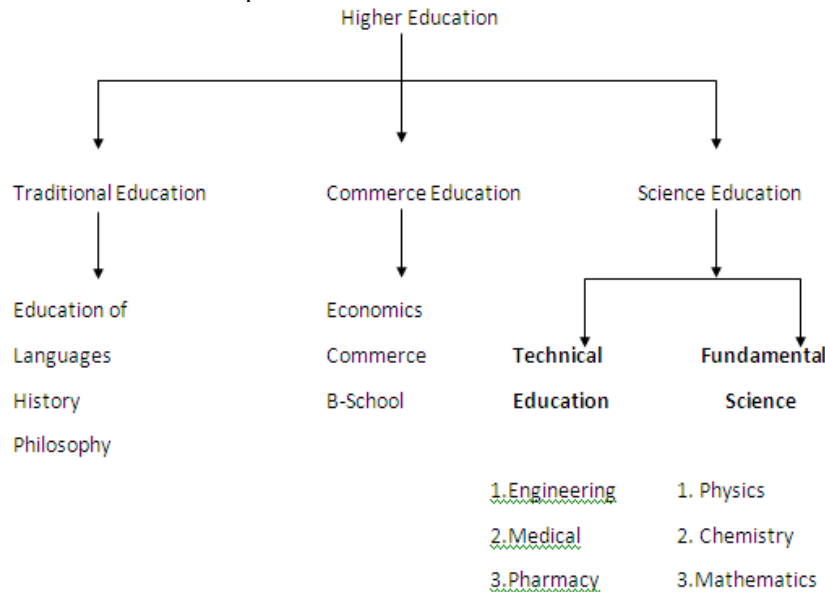
I. COMMERCE EDUCATION -MEANING

Commerce education means imparting knowledge and skill of all types of businesses and its activities. “Commerce education means development of skills and knowledge require to any business activities, through experiment and practicals.” In short commerce education includes the collecting, assembling, adding and searching of new skill and knowledge for the development of business activities.

1.1 Types of Higher Education

Now education becomes a comprehensive term and it includes many things, different subjects and training also. Following are the important categories of higher education. Traditional education mostly related to Arts, Fine Arts, Languages, History, philosophy, etc. while commerce education is related to Business Entrepreneurship, services, transport, management etc.

Science education can be divided in two parts i.e. Fundamental science education and technical education.



II. ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING IN COMMERCE EDUCATION:

Commerce education is different from all other education. It is education to earning money and maximization of wealth. It is neither the only process of listening nor a technical way of doing things, but it is the process of doing activities, practicals and getting experience and finding new innovative ideas, to providing goods and services to the people and satisfying their needs by innovative way.

Any one can get skill of doing a particular business after seeing, observing & participating in that activity & not by reading and writing only. So the commerce education becomes more useful if the students participated and perform these activities. So there is need of practicals and activity based learning in commerce education.

The University of Pune introduced practicals and practical examinations to improve quality of commerce education from 1994. The objective behind this is to improve the practical knowledge and experience of the subject of the student and to promote activity based learning. Under this programme, the student should visit any business organization like bank, credit co-operative society; insurance company, business organization and Government officeto collect various information about their functions, and he should also make experiments and observations in commerce lab. The university has assigned 20 Marks for practicals in their annual examination for each subject having practical examination so; they will get skill as well as experience about business activities. These practicals improve the involvement of students' in learning processes.

III. COMMERCE LABORATORY:

3.1 Meaning:

Commerce laboratory is the room prepared for giving practical knowledge and skill about different forms, Documents, related to business, trade, and place of demonstration and experiments of all types of business activities.

IV. TYPES OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED IN COMMERCE LABORATORY.

1. Group Discussion.
2. Seminar.
3. Physical verification of documents.
4. Experiments.
5. Role Playing.
6. Power Point Presentation.
7. Projects Reports.
8. Observation & filling of all types of documents& forms.

These are the important activities can be conducted in laboratory. If these activities are conducted in laboratory it will give more exposure to student about experience knowledge and physical observation of various documents relating to trade, commerce and industries.

In short, through commerce laboratory it becomes possible to improve skill & practical knowledge of the student and it help to makeefficient learning process. In this study an attempt is made to find out relationship between commerce laboratories and quality of learning in commerce education.

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To study the structure of the commerce lab.
- To study the Importance of commerce lab in learning process.
- To find out the documents and forms kept in commerce lab.
- To know the infrastructure required in commerce lab.
- To find out relationship between com. Lab and quality of learning.
- To provide ideal model of commerce lab.

VI. HYPOTHESIS:

“Commerce lab helps to improve the quality of learning in commerce education.”?

VII. COMMERCE LABORATORY DOCUMENTS & INSTRUMENTS.

Commerce Laboratory is one of the new concept developed in University of Pune. It is the place or room where all information relating to businesses activities are available.

So, the colleges should develop the Commerce Laboratory for providing practical knowledge to the student. The following information anddocuments should be made available in commerce laboratory.

1. All types of forms i.e. Income Tax Return, Sales Tax Return, Various forms used in banking transactions etc.

2. All forms for registration of organization like Company, Partnership Firm, Co-operative Society, Trust etc.
3. All information regarding Share application form, D-Mat, NSDL, CDSL etc.
4. Information regarding all types of investment like F.D., Shares, Debenture, Real Estate, PPF, ULIP, Mutual Fund, SIP, Gold, Silver etc.
5. Types of Banks & financial institutions & their functions
6. Specimen of all books of Accounts i.e. Journal, Ledger, Cash Book, Financial Statement required for different types of organization etc.
7. Biography of Eminent Entrepreneurs, Industrialist & CEO's.
8. Important Journal, articles, & newspapers related to business & finance like Economics Times, Business standard, RBI journal, American journal of Economics & Business Administration etc.
9. Information about all Markets like, Share Market, Commodity Market, Agriculture Market.
10. All types of audit reports, audit programs.
11. Charts and tables showing changes in market& business activities.

VIII. METHODOLOGY

The study is related to the college affiliated to Pune University. There are 277 colleges in the three districts under Pune University. The sample for study is selected as follows.

Commerce college under University of Pune & Sample

Name of District	Urban		Rural		Total	
	Total	Sample	Total	Sample	Total	Sample
Pune	98	9	58	5	156	14
Ahmednagar	11	1	44	4	55	5
Nashik	27	2	39	3	66	5
Total	136	12	141	12	277	24

The most of the data is collected by the personal visit in different colleges & personal talk with Head, of the department and Principal of the colleges.

IX. ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

1. Infrastructure in the commerce lab-

As per the information collected from the different colleges following should be ideal structure of commerce laboratory.

- a) There should be separate Hall admeasuring 30'*30' for commerce lab.
- b) There should seating arrangement of minimum 40 students.
- c) Permanent L. C.D. projector.
- d) There should be provision of minimum five computers with Internet.
- e) There should be arrangement of loft, showcases, tables, wallboard in the commerce lab.
2. The collected data shows 70 colleges have maintained commerce lab.
3. In rural only 6 colleges have provided the commerce lab.
4. The colleges working from more than 25 years have established commerce lab.
5. The result of the colleges having commerce lab is more than average result of university of Pune i.e. 52% in the year 2011.
6. The strength of students in commerce (T.Y.B.Com.)colleges in urban is 15000 in the year 2010-2011.(Approximately)
7. The strength of student in commerce (T.Y.B.Com.) colleges in rural is 7000 in the year 2010-2011.
8. The total students appearing to T.Y.B. Com. in the year 2010-11 is near about 27000.This student includes 5000 external.
9. External students are exempted from the practical examination of the college.
10. There are 277colleges affiliated to University of Pune in the year 2010-2011.
11. Out of them 136 is in urban and 141in rural areas.
12. There is no any rule regarding the structure of commerce lab.

X. IMPORTANCE OF COMMERCE LABORATORY

- [1] Commerce lab. Help to provide activity based learning.
- [2] It helps to increase the participation of student in learning process.
- [3] Commerce lab. Gave more exposer and experience to student.

- [4] Commerce lab. Help to attract and increase the number of
- [5] It provide knowledge and skill of business activities.

XI. IMPORTANT FINDINGS& OBSERVATIONS

1. It is found that 47% colleges in urban area provided facility of commerce Laboratory in their colleges.
2. In rural area only 4 % colleges have provided facility of Commerce Laboratory.
3. Most of the old colleges are working more than 25 years have provided the Commerce Lab facility.
4. The average result of college having commerce lab is more than the average result of the Pune University i.e.52% in the year 2010-11.
5. The average result of the college not having commerce lab is less than the average result of college having commerce lab in the year 2010-11.
6. The strength of students in college having commerce lab is comparatively more, so commerce lab help to increase the strength of students.
7. Number of commerce students in urban colleges is more as compare to rural colleges.
8. This study shows that commerce lab help to improve learning quality of commerce education.
9. The role of computer lab in providing skill and practical knowledge is important in learning.
10. Students can observe, see handle and verify the different documents made available in commerce lab.
11. There is need to conduct practical's according to university norms.

XII. CONCLUSION

In present scenario it is found that due to industrialization & privatization of education the number of commerce students and colleges have continuously increasing. There is high demand to the commerce student from industries and business organizations. But it also found that the commerce colleges are fail to provide manpower which is required by the industries & businessman. The important reason behind this is commerce colleges are not providing Activity Based Education i.e. Practical & Experience. The colleges are using lecture method in their teaching. So,activity based learning is very important in commerce faculty. The University of Pune introduced Practical's in their syllabus. The NAAC has made mandatory to provide such laboratory in the Commerce colleges to impart Activity Based learning in commerce education.

In short commerce labs are very important to impart qualitative education. It helps to conduct practical's in the college.The commerce lab definitely provides practical & skill based knowledge to the students. So there is a need to Equip Commerce Lab in each Commerce College and the University should make some rules and regulations regarding setting up Commerce Lab.

XIII. SUGGESTIONS

There are following important suggestions for ideal commerce lab.

1. The university should make the rules regarding commerce lab.
2. There should be one senior teacher as in charge of commerce lab.
3. There should minimum 4 periods in a week for practical work to the subjects having practicals and student should work in Commerce lab during that period.
4. The commerce lab should be maintained as a part of commerce department.
5. There should be a batch of 40 students for practicals.
6. The Govt./UGC should provide grant to each commerce colleges to establish commerce laboratory.
7. The work load of practicals should be properly counted.

XIV. REFERENCES

- [1] Annual report of university of Pune.
- [2] Syllabus of university of Pune.
- [3] Philosophy of education.
- [4] Result of B.Com. Examination 2010-11 (University of Pune)