



BEST TEACHING PRACTICES USING ICET

The E-PIL



Approach

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The E - P I L Approach

Abstract

Teaching children has never been more challenging. This generation of children have different needs, interest and values. That means our methods and our commitment to understand this generation must be a priority. Inspiration and creativity is vital to keep you on track.

Technology has opened up a new world for those who dare to try it.

Let us not forget that we are technology migrants, who have shifted on to this method after being taught and teaching by the humble blackboard and chalk.

Our students have been born in the techno-savvy world. They see technology as a part of their life. The decision is ours. We can be a part of their world and help them to explore it or get fossilized, never to be used, just remembered because we were there once upon a time.....



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Advertisements are not taught; still a child memorises and understands.....

Favourite songs are not learnt as a task; still a child is able to sing them.....

Some stories are etched forever in the memory of a child.....

The key factor here is ENJOYMENT.

The teaching –learning process should not be a ‘task to teach and learn’ but to ‘Enjoy and Learn’.

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Here is a story about Mulla Nasrudin

ENLIGHTENMENT

“Can I smoke while meditating?” a seeker asked the master.

“No !” the master shouted angrily.

Nasrudin, who also enjoyed smoking, then asked the Master, “Can I meditate while smoking?”

“Yes,” said the Master with a knowing smile realising that Nasrudin had truly attained enlightenment.



This ideology of Nasrudin has to be inculcated in every teacher. The student should enjoy and learning should be a part of this process.

‘Enjoying while learning’ is not enough. We should aim for ‘Learning while enjoying’

So how can the learning process be made effortless?

How do we ensure that enjoyment comes first and teaching becomes a desired side effect?

The multivitamin pill I propose is

The E-PIL

Enjoyment by Participation and Involvement that brings about learning.

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Before we discuss Teaching Methods and styles, we shall have to look into the following:

- What is desirable for the students?
- What is possible with Technology?
- What is viable at the work place?
- Some people are visual learners, some kinesthetic learners, some tactile learners, and some are auditory learners. Our teaching methods must cater to all these groups.

The Ingredients of this E-PIL shall now be highlighted:

1. **Active Learning:** It has been suggested that students who actively engage with the material, are more likely to recall information.

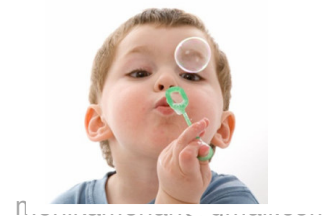
Here are some examples of some activities that engage a child in active learning:

- class discussion
- *Thinking in pairs and sharing it with the class*
- *Short Written Papers to be presented in the form of a ‘Paper’ presented by the writer i.e. the student*
- *Learning by Teaching- Short lectures given by students on specific topics.*

2. **Kinesthetic learning** is a teaching and learning style in which learning takes place by the student actually carrying out a physical activity, rather than listening to a lecture or merely watching a demonstration.

Experience is the best teacher.

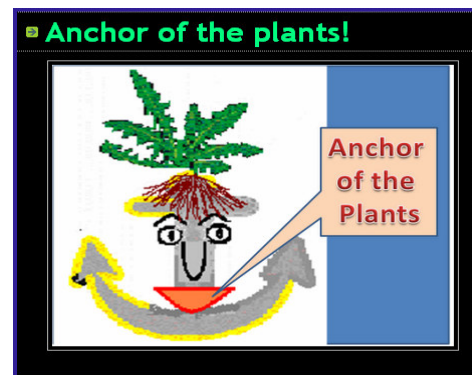
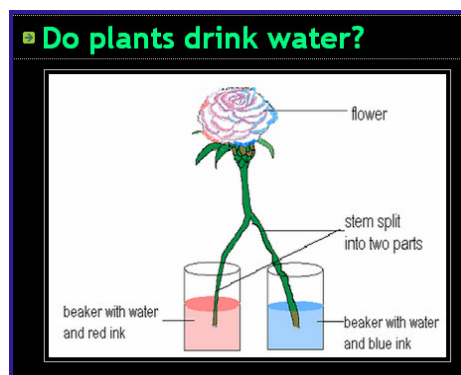
The E-PIL approach in Education



3. **Teaching Aids and use of Technology:** Technology, now- a days is the key factor in developing Teaching Aids that would enable the E-PIL approach.
- . The use of these teaching aids has been beneficial in more ways than one.
 - They have improved attention span of the student.
 - Some of them allow self paced learning especially for the two extremes i.e. the genius category and the slow learners.
 - These teaching aids accommodate different learning styles.
 - A remarkable improvement is seen overall scores of the students.

Here are some examples of teaching aids that I have been using:

- **Activity Based Learning:** Activities give hands –on experience and allow a student to learn at his/ her own pace. Here are some screenshots of activities from my blogs:



In this kitchen, microbes cook!



Objective: To find out the appropriate temperature for the setting of curd.

Materials required: curd (as a starter) (100 mL), milk (1 litre), 5 beakers, a spoon, heat source for heating the milk, measuring cylinder, and thermometer.

Procedure: Take five beakers and label them as A, B, C, D, and E. You may label them with a sketch pen or a marker pen. Put 200 mL of milk in each of the five beakers. Heat the milk in the first

- **Riddles:** Riddles too, nurture the child 's mind to think while he/she is involved in the enjoyment process. Here are some riddles to learn the parts of a flower.... For the child, it becomes a game.

- I am green in colour, for the bud, I am the protective cover.
- I attract the butterfly and the bee. The flower is attractive because of me.

Such riddles can be put on the laptop and taken to the classroom when Introduction of a topic or revision is required.

- **The back to nature approach:** In the times when formal training in schools was not given , the humans had two teachers- Life and nature. Nature can be used as a teaching aid in the present too. A teacher may take his/her students to the natural surroundings

Or

At times use technology to 'bring' the surroundings to the classroom.



Take the child to the park

OR



Bring the park to the classroom.

- **Nurture Imagination and help the child to dream:**

It is not a disgrace if dreams are unfulfilled, but it is, if we have no dreams to dream!

Help a child to dream and delimit his/ her potential.

Give wings to the child so he/she can soar above the storms.

Let the child know that there is more to what he/she is learning. Giving addresses of web sites that provide this information is helpful.

A teacher does not know where her influence ends. She effects eternity.



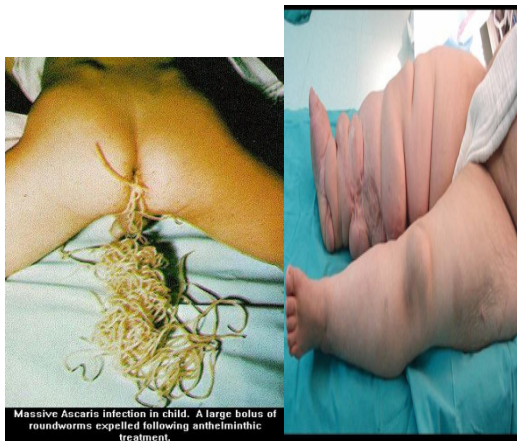
- **Pictures as teaching aids- (The surprise factor)!**

Certain pictures have an indelible impact on the mind of a student. These pictures can be easily taken to the classroom on Laptop, as handhelds, on i-pods and shown to the students.

Here are two pictures that I had used while telling students about some worms and the diseases they cause.

After seeing the first picture, the student could immediately associate it with the digestive system of humans.

On seeing the second picture, the students realized why the disease is called Elephantiasis.



Massive Ascaris infection in child. A large bolus of roundworms expelled following anthelmintic treatment.

A child suffering from Elephantiasis

- **Blogs:**

The use of Blogs is increasing with the advent of technology. Everything that a teacher wants to tell a student - notes, diagrams, links to websites, activities, revision assignments, slideshows, inspiring anecdotes.... All can be put here for the student. Blogging helps the teacher too. The teacher can share teaching aids and techniques with like-minded teachers all over the world. This is probably one of the steps that will expedite the setting of Global Classrooms. Here are some screen shots of my blogs:



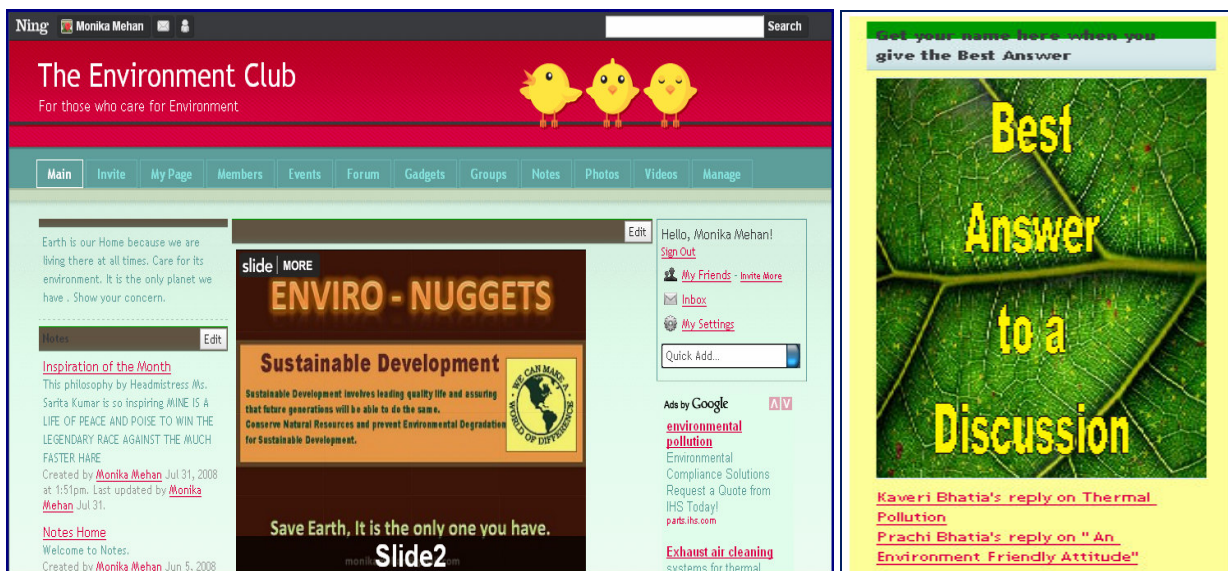
- **Social Network (to interact with students 24/7):**

Developing Social Networks also ensures active participation of the student. The work done by the student is visible at all times. Social Networks for classes and even for Clubs in school is a good idea. I have developed two such social networks for two clubs in the school-

- The Environment Club www.enviroclub.ning.com
- The IAYP Club www.iaypatkhms.ning.com

In The Environment Club, the students have developed e-files in the form of Blogs, articles, discussions, forums and inspiring pictures. This reduces the use of paper and the work of the students is on display at all times. Also they can ask for help, assistance, views etc. from the teachers even after school hours and during the holidays.

Here are some screen shots of the same:



- **Open Source Software :**

Open Office, Irfan View, Unfreeze, Flash Slide show maker, i-spring, eXe, Viewlet Quiz, Jigsaw creator are some of the softwares that are

- Freely available
- Take up less disc space
- Modifications are possible according to the need of the lesson/ student/ teacher.

eXe is an interesting software. I would call it an Interactive book that a student can open and view, take tests, perform activities, evaluate self etc.

The list is endless. Technology has opened up a new world for those who dare to try it.

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References:

Support Material:

- A PowerPoint Presentation on the Topic “Best Teaching Practices Using ICET”.
- Slides from PowerPoint Presentations that are being used for Classroom teaching.
- eXe lessons used for Classroom teaching
- Figures, diagrams, flowcharts using “unfreeze”
- Panorama Images using Irfan View
- Screen Shots from:
<http://earth-inspires.blogspot.com>
<http://biology-alivingscience.blogspot.com>
<http://biology-secondarylevel.blogspot.com>
<http://ecoclubatkhms.blogspot.com>
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