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Defining a New Edge in Teaching Using Student-Centric Approach of Classroom

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Abstract:

A true student-centered classroom is one where there is more focus on the students, with the end goals being to create students one who are self-identified and also independent learners. By placing more of the responsibility of learning in the hands of the students, we are able to help them become more autonomous and confident in their abilities. Teacher-centered approach centers around teachers, whereas student-centered approach focuses on students. Student-centric teaching and also the learning practices may then include service learning, internships, or the project-based learning that shifts the focus to learners. It is the innovative way of thinking and also acting on educational methods by emphasizing the importance of student autonomy. This paper reviews the concept of the student centric approach of classroom and its importance in proper development of students.

Keywords: student centric classroom active learning collaboration differentiation social – emotional learning voice and choice.

I. INTRODUCTION

A student-centered classroom is a learning environment where the responsibility of learning is shifted from the teacher to the student. The end goal is to develop self-reliant and independent children. One of the most effective ways to help students develop skills for lifelong learning is through student-centered learning. Proponents of student-centric learning would argue that it is one of the most effective ways to help students develop skills required for independent problem solving and lifelong learning.

To provide an education experience that values the students, it must be student centered. The teacher should give students options and voice, ensuring that your teaching methods focus on the things that matter to them. The students in this

environment have a more active role in their own experience. With the student-centered based learning environment, students will learn to be independent learners and become people who can work hard and achieve success. Developing a student-centered place in the classroom will help your students become independent learners, and pursue their own education.

The biggest challenge of developing a student-centered learning environment is changing your perspective from that of a traditional teacher to one where the focus is on students. For schools to successfully implement a student-centered learning environment, they'll need to employ strategies, principles and tips which have shown to be effective.

Student-centered classrooms are structured conversations between students and teachers. The teacher facilitates conversation and listens to what the students have to say, rather than speaking at the students. When students are involved in the process, they feel a sense of community. Teachers help students realize the importance of their own thoughts and feelings by acting as facilitators and activators.

Trust and open communication in classrooms are achieved by always being fair with students, listening to them, and allowing them speak. A student-centered classroom can't exist without these things, but it won't happen overnight. It is easier to develop a student-centered classroom if you start at the beginning of the year. Starting early gives you time to get settled and lets students know what's expected.

Because student-centered learning can have many different meanings and implications, it's difficult to determine precisely what the term is referring to when it's used without qualification, specific examples, or additional explanation. Some educators may use the term synonymously with personalized learning, while others see personalized learning as one aspect of student-centered learning. For these reasons, we should investigate precisely how the term is being used, and what it means in a specific educational context.

Student-centered most likely arose in response to educational decisions that don't adequately account for what students need and what works best toward learning for individual students or groups of them. As an example, traditional approaches to schooling, such as with classrooms overseen by teachers, curricula all on a single level with only one set of textbooks and resources—many are school-centered rather than student-centered because they aren't the most effective way(s) to teach". For instance, it is better from an organizational standpoint if there's only one classroom with all the

same subjects being taught at once (instead of different classrooms for each group of subjects, for instance), and if there are more changes in the order and schedule of events so long as it avoids fatigue.

By making student learning the primary objective, advocates of student-centered learning are challenging or overturning many common school organizational or instructional tendencies. In other words, all factors that do not improve or facilitate student learning are viewed as secondary (or lower) in importance. Rather than improving organizational efficiency, schools should be designed to enhance student learning. Educators have long distinguished between two approaches to teaching. Teacher-centered instruction relies on experienced teachers who are in charge of the material and how it is taught.

“ In teacher-centered classrooms, the teacher typically does most of the talking and students spend most of their time listening and answering short questions. These types of lessons often use instructional techniques that are easy or personally preferable for the teacher, but not always best for every student (or shown to be most effective at improving learning). Student-centered instruction usually leads to more student-directed learning. Additionally, student-centered instruction is often seen in classrooms arranged in circles or small groups with self-guided or self-paced learning and outside the traditional classroom setting”.

“ Teacher-centered instruction has typically been standard in American public schools for more than a century. Evidence seems to show that only a small fraction of instructional settings in American public schools can be considered authentically student-centered, and many teachers might describe their teaching style as student-centered. Nevertheless, some aspects of student-centered instruction— such as grouping desks into circles or assigning reading materials that students choose themselves— have been widely adopted by teachers. The typical instructional setting found in many public schools most likely features a combination of teacher-centered and student-centered approaches”.

A student-centered classroom is all about engagement. Better engagement with the students means better learning. One way to engage students is through the use of technology. Technology isn't just for the future, it's for today. Learners are encouraged to integrate web tools and technology into learning tasks. When faced with the opportunity to use new practices, students feel more engaged in the process. All their information is online, and does not involve paper. Allow the students to use free web

tools in school. This way, they are more eager about solving the problem.

“Our society is increasingly becoming more dependent on technology, meaning that it is even more important for students to graduate from high school prepared with the knowledge and skills they need. School districts are realizing the importance of starting this preparation early on and are also recognizing that one-size-fits-all models of teaching, such as teacher-led models, are not equipped to help their students become digitally literate or prepare them for their future” .

“Student-centered learning mirrors life and the workplace, said Dr. Sarah Pazur, director of school leadership at Fletch High Schools. You must set goals, take action, manage your time, reflect and revise, and believe in yourself to be successful. A student must learn how to make connections between prior learning and the problem at hand in order to leverage resources. In a student-centered learning environment, kids are encouraged to take control of their learning, and to understand how they learn best. Personalized plans and personalized instruction encourage them to go at their own pace. Mastery of knowledge and skills is seen as successful, which has shown that this leads to a greater understanding of concepts in the long-run. This all leads to more engaged, responsible learners.

“In a student-centered learning environment, students are equipped with skills for success beyond high school so they can thrive both in and out of the classroom. Technology is usually a key component that can help to better prepare and equip students with school skills. In many cases, one device is given to each student so they're never without homework. Schools implementing a student-centered learning model also have a digital curriculum and many use a Learning Management System (LMS). Technology and the data features of an LMS helps students track their progress and provides high-quality feedback for both students and teachers to get the most out of their education. Technology-based instruction does not dictate student-centered learning. What it looks like in your district is dependent on the degree of implementation. Some districts choose to offer technology-enabled personalized learning, blended learning, or customized learning for students. They may also offer flexible scheduling options, alternative pathways to graduation, and proficiency levels from many different grading systems. As Dave Tebo, superintendent at Hamilton Community Schools reminds us, Grades don't necessarily mean success.”

II. WAYS TO CREATE STUDENT-CENTRIC APPROACH CLASSROOM

Traditional classrooms where the teacher lectures and students are passive often result in less desirable outcomes for both the teacher and the student. Student-centered instruction does away with these problems by focusing on learning, not just mastering new material. Students are in charge with Student Centered Learning (SCL). They are required to monitor their own thinking, learn with enthusiasm and responsibility, and improve motivation.

Use of student-centered techniques will improve the efficacy of classroom resources and lessons and ways to create it are: -

- Give students autonomy and choice: In order to increase engagement in a classroom, you may want to provide project, assignment, and assessment options that allow the student to make their own choices. Providing time (within reason of reason) for students allow them to reflect on their tasks and what they have learned.
- Open-ended questioning techniques: When students are given open-ended questions, they are encouraged to creatively and critically think about their answers.

This technique also helps enhance problem-solving skills.

- Engage in explicit instruction: Explicit instruction strives to engage students, subconsciously pulling them into the lesson and empowering them to be active participants. Explicit instruction takes an engaging approach and is a better alternative to the traditional teaching attitude of "skills and drill."
- Create group projects in the classroom: When students work with each other, they are not only learning from the lesson content, but from diversity and understanding of different points of view. Students learn to bounce their ideas off one another, creating a better opportunity for their ideas to grow.
- Respond to student reflections: Reflection provides space and time for student growth. It allows students to pause and think about what they have learned. It also helps their brains process the information they are learning.
- Framing up the self-paced assignments: As it is considered that the students work at different speeds. To ensure they gain better understanding of their subject, it's important to allow students to work at their own pace. It notices

reading speed and allows the user to move through material at a rate that best fits their learning style.

- Involve your students in service-learning: Technology can help students to see their larger role in the world. They're given the opportunity to learn how fulfilling it can be to give back to others. Learning becomes more organic and less rigid. Students have the opportunity to see firsthand that learning opportunities are everywhere where they go.

III. FACTORS OF STUDENT CENTRIC CLASSROOM

There are certain factors in a classroom that indicate the teacher is focused on the learner. Whether you're a teacher, an administrator, or the coach, these factors can be used to reflect and set goals.

- **Active Learning:** Learning is beyond the learning of facts and includes being reminded of knowledge one once knew. Plato, considered one of the first theorist on psychological learning, believed that humans are born with all knowledge they need to know before birth. Learning is just a reminder of what we knew before birth. Locke proposed that we're born with nothing and then learn. Piaget developed a theory depicting active learning as being better, but there's no way to know if we're actually learning if we are not actively thinking about it. John Locke believed that tabula rasa was the ground for all minds, completely blank. In the 1920's Jean Piaget pioneered the modern theory of learning, constructivism. It postulates that learning is a process of actively constructing understanding; it builds upon our existing beliefs and knowledge. His theory has been confirmed by research, and we often find that active learning is just better. The best learning experiences for students includes active participation. Tasks that allow movement, multiple senses, and collaboration are the most beneficial to these students. It also requires minimal teacher talk so that students can learn how to initiate discussions with one another and guide their own learning.
- **Collaboration:** "Collaboration is another hallmark of a student-centered classroom. In student-centered classrooms, each learning event passes through the student" . This creates an even distribution of engagement; with most students all being engaged at the same time. The bottleneck effect can make teachers feel less valued, or even frustrated. But there are some simple solutions that change the way they teach in order to achieve better results. Giving students chance to work together and ask for help from other

students makes them more engaged, and promotes social skills as well as higher learning rates. A mechanism to introduce collaboration is Turn and talk where a student asks a question and the other has one minute to answer before being "turned" by the first. " For more complex collaborative models, rubrics or group works protocols can be implemented. Collaboration is a learned skill so students may take time to get it right the first day, especially if they are used to only lecture-based instruction.

- **Differentiation:** Differentiation refers broadly to any changes we make in meeting a student's needs. There are four types of differentiation: personalization, individualization, differentiation by ability and differentiation by circumstantial factors. Having students of different skill levels in the same assignment can be challenging for teachers. Teachers need to know how to differentiate the content depending on each situation. There are four ways to differentiate which are scaffolding, enrichment, acceleration and differentiation by instruction. " One limitation of differentiation is that it assumes that the average student should be accommodated for, and that other students should be treated differently. The newer models, like the Universal Design for Learning, are based on the idea that there is no single factor in learning. Instead, UDL takes learning differences into account from the start, designing flexible activities to allow every student to be challenged and supported". We think that combining 3 different models- with the possibility to hybridize them to suit individual needs - will help ensure students are well educated with the optimal amount of rigorous standardized instruction alongside creative problem-solving and emotional skills.
- **Social-Emotional Learning:** A student-centered classroom encompasses components of social-emotional learning. Those skills are included in a student-centered curriculum by engaging students in activities while they're in class, asking them to reflect on their feelings, and providing opportunities to act out scenes. Students can build their social-emotional skills in the classroom with active learning and team projects. They don't need a separate class to learn SEL. Schools support SEL skills by both providing special time dedicated to the subject, and integrating social-emotional learning into all subjects.
- **Voice and Choice:** When a student doesn't have control over the learning activity, they can become disengaged and uninterested. Giving students choice in what they learn will

increase their engagement with the lesson and make for a more productive experience. “A way to amplify student voice is through surveys. They allow students to express how they felt about a recent lesson, or what they would like to learn in your class. Even if you can't give them everything they want, just asking their opinion can help them feel more invested in the course. There are plenty of ways to increase student choice without compromising standards--say, by letting them work in teams to complete story analysis organizers on a story of their choice”. They develop literacy skills while including material that meets their interests. You can increase student choice with goal-setting. “Set standards and let students decide how they can demonstrate mastery, or give a list of assignments and let them set their own deadlines”.

- **Technology Integration:** No matter the subject, employing technology can make it more accessible to students. With classrooms full of technology such as document sharing, students can work on assignments together. Teachers can also use technology to adjust teaching methods and lessons based on a student's needs. Empowering students through effective use of technology, regardless of their background, grades or interests, can allow them to enter this new era as leaders rather than followers. Technology should not be seen as the end goal- integration at the classroom level is only for those who can afford it. Interactive technology often does not have any pedagogical benefits and favors one student, while dry erase boards allow for collaboration. The insertion of technology into teaching is simply a substitution for traditional teaching.

IV. BENEFITS

- Students are involved in the lessons and all work done. Students are accountable for their learning, and enforce their thinking standards. Negotiation of subjects is aided by the students as well.
- Teachers at this school uphold cultural relevance by providing instruction in everyone's first language.
- Students can work together in groups to solve problems, demonstrating their understanding of a task or concept through multiple perspectives.
- Supporting inclusion, the school has implemented best practices to do so, such as “ dual-

certified teachers, differentiated instruction, qualified aides, and Individualized learning plans.

- Students develop their own reasoning and are able to articulate the process they went through while solving a problem. They listen to their peers as well as their teachers and apply different ideas to grow their understanding of a concept, resulting in an increasingly complex understanding.
- “The habits of mind for reading, writing, and thinking are applied in various genres and disciplines”. Students explore solutions to problems using the knowledge they have gained in different contexts.
- In many types of groups, students explore theory and topics through use of physical material such as space and discussions about group roles.
- Teachers plan questions to ensure that students stay engaged throughout the lesson and can apply what they learn to real world scenarios.
- Arts, vocational interests and academic coursework are included in the curriculum and work together to engage students and help them to succeed in studying and gain higher levels of education.
- Schools teach students to make proactive decisions about their health and to bring balance to life's challenges.
- Student work can be collected in a portfolio, which can include “ their best pieces and the student's evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses. It may also contain one or more works-in-progress that illustrate how an essay evolves through various stages” .
- Student voices are connected with adult allies for the purpose of improving their development, school culture and social life. Student-centered teaching strategies such as advisory, service learning, internships, and project-based learning.

- **Enhances Engagement:** “A child is not given a manual when he or she learns to walk or when it comes to playing with different objects and testing what they do. They just follow their curiosity, try and fail, and then try again and again. Besides being fun, this method proves to be extremely effective too, doesn't it? Student- centered learning works like this: you take a student's curiosity and let it grow and bloom, weave around the topic until it becomes strong, and then spread it around the world. As a result, students are more likely to take the lead, dig deeper, and participate in discussions and disputes, increasing their engagement. The Wonderlic test structure and questions are a great example of this”.

- **Fosters Better Memorization:** SCL focuses on engaging content that has real-life value rather than traditional cramming-based education. Rather than teaching a foreign language through random textbooks, encourage students to write notes to each other. Encourage programmers to design their own games rather than pile them with rules and algorithms. “ And when designing a course for engineers, make it minimal theory and maximum actual cases that require creative solutions. As a result, students will be challenged and encouraged to use their existing knowledge in new situations” . They will also be able to relate new information to previously learned material, which will help them retain what they've learned.
- **Trains Problem-Solving Skills:** Classroom courses often consist of quizzes, quests, role- playing, and more. All of these things let students test their skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. They also prepare them for what they'll face later in their education or career. “ By completing different types of assignments, students learn to think critically. They learn to find smart solutions to the problems they face rather than quit without trying” .
- **Stimulates Cooperation and Teamwork:** “ As SCL can include a lot of group projects, it fosters cooperation and teamwork, which is good for students of any age” . In schools, a typical SCL course would encourage popular kids to interact with those who might be feeling left out or ignored. It's important for adults to make the effort to work together as well. “ Businesses often want their employees to work together well as individuals, so an SCL course is perfect for training theseskills” .

V. CONCLUSION

Student Centric Approach Classroom, an educational approach that is interactive and engaging, teaches students decision making and problem-solving skills which are pertinent to the current labor needs. Student-centered education relies on individualized attention in order to meet the needs of diverse learners. For example, teachers may offer supplementary content to further enhance student learning. Learning is more successful when content is supplemented by films, practical assignments, and so on. The student- centered model incorporates a variety

of mediums that engage students. Learning becomes enjoyable with these additions. Student-centered learning incorporates many group projects, which helps to encourage cooperation and teamwork among all students.

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