Education Driven By Creative Learning, Innovative Thinking And Entrepreneurship

Govind B. Raju
Brand Manager, Jyothy Laboratories Ltd.

Abstract

Education, a holistic learning to gain knowledge discover deliver. A lot of changes have happened over many decades in the field of education but some of the questions still remain in the minds of students/individuals like have I obtained the right source of information? Will I be Industry ready tomorrow and be innovative? Have I been trained with the right tools to become an entrepreneur? Well, the beginning of the education starts right from the curriculum which has to be re-designed for the better. Looking towards the future, the kids and students are getting smarter, so we will have to understand the new generation learners, imbibe knowledge with core skills needed for fast paced environment, greater use of technology as a study tool, define a path for change in the learning experience. Secondly, teacher’s/professors mentorship in identifying student’s talents and skill-set to one’s true potential with the institution’s/university’s support. Teaching methods + institution’s systems = Creative learning + innovative thinking. My paper will talk about the strategic tools required for improvisation of educational methodologies explaining the importance of leadership skills, creative learning experience, self – assessed research, also the role of higher education influenced by an innovative curriculum. The key mantra here is to have a formulation through a structural relative approach and reformation change in a very refined method helping an individual in broader aspect of thinking, creative ability to solve complex global problems, creating economy growth drivers and also sell a new idea being the most essential skill for an entrepreneur.

Keywords: Student learning, Innovation, Creativity, Entrepreneurship
Objective:

1. To find the factors that help in creating value based education driven by creative learning, innovative thinking and entrepreneurship.

2. To make a comparative study on the best institutes with the other institutes and understanding the system of education and methodology.

3. To give suggestion over the theory of relative education and LEED + C model which can be used as an innovative model, an objective of educational tool or method required for the 21st century educational needs.

Design/methodology/approach – The research is based on both primary data and secondary data. An E - survey was made and references were done with respect to journals and various books, e- books on education and institutes which were made and collected, in order to understand the learning environment of the students and teachers and also case analysis were made to gain clarity over the comparative study of the functionality of education methods and administered with respect to various schools and colleges to measure the number of courses and programs integrating sustainability and entrepreneurial approach in education.

Findings – Overall there was lack of systematic ways and approaches in the integration of innovation in education curricula, out of the box teaching methods which is one of the most important need for today’s world, this is something the institutes never took part as an additional role and responsibility other than the general learning means and methods required for the restricted syllabus and lacked deep/core learning of syllabus or subjects. The concept of education system is missing the core understanding of the subjects which helps in apply those learnt content into practicality tomorrow.

Challenges: A case study - From primary data with a combination of students from different grades, also with the undergraduate and graduate students.

Mom I want to become a Pilot; Dad I want to become a Scientist; Sir/Mam I think I can change the world. Do we still hear this when young kids say this to us??Don't You?? When will that transformation happen? Yes we do. As a young kid we all tend to say whatever we feel like. Anything would be possible then, but the same attitude is never carried towards dreaming of becoming of what one is interested in, over a period of time it all changes. It all comes through practical learning experience also to be trained with the right tools of education approach, knowledge, leadership and skill set to full fill the dream. There is a great sense of excitement and equally a great struggle by breaking the barriers of hardships to achieve the required goal.
Student’s Mind Set: Over a Period of Time

What it has been so far: Everyday other questions pop up as the students grow: Bookish knowledge enough for career skills? Will my grades affect my career growth? I’m i good enough? Will I be industry ready tomorrow? Can I take a business risk? Have I made the right career choice? Everyone has a goal but not a focused goal. The students have an objective in mind yet they are in a confused state when it comes to making decisions in terms of what would led to where. Some of the reasons could be due to lack of availability of tools and techniques in particular institutes which might need to support their need and requirement. Hence they feel the right guidance and support of what an individual needs from a mentor/teacher/professor is not justified.

Heard, Personal experiences and Responses:

I was asked not to take up commerce; I was told not work on a project by an IT firm. I always fail to sell my idea; We are not able to make decision in our careers. We can’t focus on one subject. I think I need another concept to support my study but it’s unavailable here in my institute. I can’t afford for another course. We have been asked to do things as market demands. My life is programmed. We have been asked to choose a career which my parents have decided as they think I would get a good job doing this course.

These were some of the experiential ways to understand the system and process of education in certain schools and colleges/institutes:

Programmed methods of teaching and learning: The class sessions are plain and not challenging; it is the same chalk and talk monologue method of teaching. The knowledge gain here is very limited where there is no opportunity for the students or individuals to express their intellect and talk their point of their views towards a particular topic. This becomes a limited access of learning that has an impact on the future prospects of the student’s career interests and aspirations they would want to achieve. If the basic learning is limited to just syllabus prescribed it becomes very difficult for the students tomorrow when it comes to application of their learning in their jobs. What we teach today is the cause for the impact tomorrow, so the learning process and experience has to be strong and efficient.

More quantification is required: It is important for the teacher to say how we arrive at a point for example a formula. Here the mandate is that teacher has to give a little history behind a formula usage before arriving at the problem and finding solutions before even understanding the core concept of the particular topic. This way by learning the reason behind usage of formulation, the further formulation becomes much easier; there is better relative understanding while further studying that particular topic or a subject. The deeper understanding will help in better analysis and judgment.
Need core understanding: The skills are measured by the way an individual has learnt his basics in which he has to be stronger and in his ability to learn things quickly and effectively which will measure his/ hers efficiency. They are interrelated to the core/deeper understanding of one’s learning in the past. In the class sessions the methods taught should be covering the overall aspect of the syllabus which should contain the past, present and future for the aspect of knowledge in relating and understanding a particular topic should be wholly specific and complete. Lack of attitude for freedom of expression could be one of the reasons.

Deeper analysis: Analyzing a topic should be made a practice which is not a option in some of the schools. The plain syllabus that is taught is very restricted to the available curriculum as prescribed by the institutes and universities which restricts the students to do their learning to a very limited space. Analysis can be self analysis, analysis on a subject or a problem, or can be teachers or mentors analyzing their assessment towards the transformations made in the student’s career needs. All of these were not preferred as a part of the school/college priorities.

Better evaluation: There was no evaluation made on the students other than the grades of the students which were rated on the basis of intellect and ability to learn. This way it becomes very difficult for the student to evaluate his own performance as his thinking is only focused on grades. Rating on basis of grades can only mark the content of book knowledge but not practical learning which is the most critical requirements for any individual for the competitive world. We have always known the importance of education for the real world which happens at the best institutes, its important for the other institutes to learn and adapt some of the methods which would support their course of study. Keeping in mind the objective of the need.

What is need for the 21st century?

Experiencing Education Driven By Creative Learning, Innovative Thinking And Entrepreneurship.

Making every career/course equally important and sustain globally.
Column to understand the current Indian scenario.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Schools / College</th>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Theory of relative teaching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Schools</td>
<td>Fun &amp; Learning</td>
<td>We try doing it here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Schools</td>
<td>Learning basics</td>
<td>Possibilities are low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Schools</td>
<td>Learning &amp; Advance with basics</td>
<td>Have to adapt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre university &amp; Undergrad</td>
<td>Understand the role of learning</td>
<td>Have to adapt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher degrees</td>
<td>Mastery over learning</td>
<td>Have to adapt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source – Survey

**Theory of relative education:**

**What is theory of relative education in experiencing and learning a curriculum?**

It is to do and teach things differently relating your curriculum or program of a course or study by not missing out the objective of the prescribed syllabus. The programmed syllabus can be tweaked by making one’s learning more interesting and impactful which helps a student or individual do more than just learning. A visual activity and example with motivational direction from the teacher’s or professor’s end plays a critical role in doing this activity.

Examples:

- Remember what happens when Jerry hits Tom on his head?? – ‘Clotting of blood’- Primary grader
- Talk about a James Bond movie – laser watches – ‘Concept of Lasers’ – For the high schools
- Role play – Consider yourself as the Leader of this program/Marketing manager – Graduate/Undergrad.
Strong definition of a goal/focus along with Objective of the curriculum theory

• **Never miss out on what you have to teach** – When the activities are designed in accordance with the curriculum and the learning is practiced based on the requirement of the syllabus it is important to make sure that the teacher or a professor never misses out on the main objective of the learning. This requires constant practice from the teachers to mould their skill set to train the students in comparison with the syllabus.

• **Create interaction & impact in what you teach** – It’s important to ask students what they think about a particular topic and create a dialogue in a classroom by involving the topic as a role of identity and interaction. This helps a student to think beyond a particular point of conclusion which is otherwise made by a teacher with a single point of communication which becomes a restricted phase of his first learning. This method of approach would create impact in the learning process.

• **Relate and influence with examples into class teaching** - The theory of relative education could become a strong usage of showcasing concepts of learning a curriculum with live and fictional examples which would create a great influence on learning. The key mantra is to have a focused note of activity involving the division of the syllabus driven by a relative theory of explanations that would further influence in better understanding and greater grasping of applications and concepts.

**Impact:**

• Grasping power increases: There is a huge impact in this way or method of learning the degree of grasping increases and the understanding capabilities would be far better than the average learning experience.

• The students relate and recall quickly: Relative education would have a great influence on the students, during their weekly/monthly test analysis or annual and semester exams and for their future application from their learnt experiences.

• Thinking ability increases: Creates better maturity in thinking and application in their individual and future prospects of their educational and professional environment these are impacted from the exercises made and derived from the class discussions and dialogues.
LEED + C Model: Learn, Experiment, Experience, Develop + Contribute.

Stages of Development:

Stage 1
Learn - First stage in education
• Gain knowledge.
• Concepts/valued inputs.

Stage 2
Experiment - Stage of creative application
• Experiment from the learnings.
• Creates a new idea.

Stage 3
Experience - Stage of innovative thinking
• Experiences by applying various creative expressions
• Understands the requirement through assessment.

Stage 4
Develop - Stage of entrepreneurial approach
• Builds on the idea/
Tests one’s own skill
• Concept application in real time in future prospects

Stage 5
CONTRIBUTE = Numerous Possibilities
Creativity + Innovation + Entrepreneurship

Sustainable development
• Value addition
Integrate method
• Improve a course
Innovate approach
• A new way of study
Multiple benefit
Can set an example
Core analysis
Possibility of new trend
Creates a need

My LEED + C Model: What is this model and how does it help?
It is a sustainability model that helps in learning, understanding, practicing and applying education what is required for the real world and it is done with the series of differential practices that helps an individual gain deeper understanding in education. The LEED + C model can prepare a student future ready for their entrepreneurial, educational and professional journey and overall the skill set required for the 21st century. These can derived with the help of digital media and the available technology. The basis of this model has a continuous flow of influence at every stage of the learning process it is a step by step methodology which makes an individual influence their creative thought process and exercise their brain resulting in the innovative and versatile thinking capabilities.

Designing curriculum/learning

Step by Step Process:

• Allows a student to first **LEARN** - This is the first stage in which the student gains attention to basics at school or college where this stage can be taught with the theory of relative education and influence their thinking capacities. The perception of the student differs from one another at this stage but the objective to master their learning towards a particular topic/subject/ syllabus is fulfilled. For Instance: Subject to influence – Learn the key basis of relative Marketing. Stage of experiential learning.

• Then **EXPERIMENT** his learning in reality - This is the second stage at which the key role is played by the teacher to ensure after the learning stage. The phase of experimenting a particular topic is done. This is the most important and critical stage of continuity of an individual’s learning leading to a creative approach of thinking. For instance a by experimenting the learnt experiences into practicality a class activity can be made by creating an idea – marketing concept to marketing experiment equating to a New product introduction. Stage of Creative application.

• Advances by **EXPERIENCING**- The third stage is a big differentiator as the students talk about their learnt concepts and applying innovative expressions to convince the group or crowd of other students by understanding the market based on the field/ real experience. Many things emerge out of this activity it can be innovative thinking and the application of his past learning into action that becomes a representation of the student’s complete understanding towards a particular subject which is again equated to the assessment of grade being one of the evaluation points for the overall performance valued by the teachers and senior heads. Stage of Innovative thinking.
• DEVELOPS on making decision: At this stage the students/individual develops a point of realization to make his/her own assessment and evaluation of understanding the knowledge they have gained over the application of their own creative thought process and creates the attitude of making right decisions to identify his strengths and weaknesses about a topic or subject in the curriculum/syllabus based on the evaluations made and shared with the students, which is one of the main prospects and attitudes required for an entrepreneur by testing his own skills and further builds on his idea and applies it in real time in the future by carrying the same behavioral approach. Stage of Entrepreneurial approach.

• It finally leads to numerous CONTRIBUTIONS: Final stage will tell the students to focus on their strengths/interests and improve on the weakness. By knowing what an individual is good at, it provides a gateway for numerous contributions in the field of one’s interest. This stage will also create a way for teachers to think if they would use other mediums or methods to teach a topic/subject and gives a feedback for re–improvisation.

“CREATING A NEW PRODUCT/SERVICE IN A CLASS SHOULD BE A PART OF EVERYDAY LEARNING IN A ROLE PLAY/OR ANY OTHER METHOD AND NOT JUST A PROJECT”

An Observation is made in every stage and final Assessment by the group mentors or Teachers.

Support from teachers/institutes

Role and participation of teachers with the equal support of institutes/universities.

1. Motivate/Encourage the student’s interests – The teachers and professors play key role in engaging the students and designing the program in accordance to their respective topics. Motivation can happen by making classes more interesting and fun driven, these can be possible only by having constant attention of students with one to one relationship with the help of group mentors. This approach would also help in identifying the interests of the students and encourage them in their interests.

2. Engagement/Dialogue of learning in class – Interactive learning is one of the best ways to understand the concepts and theories in a class environment. It all depends on the teacher and professors who constantly practice and prepare themselves to create this dialogue before they conduct classes among the students as it generates various point of views on a particular topic or event of exercise. This activity would create even greater deeper analysis over a particular subject.
3. **Understand a student’s career needs**– While interaction and engagement are the key notes for basic needs for the student’s freedom of expression, constant evaluation in understanding the needs of students career’s is the other aspect where observations and touch points of conversations from every students should be made note of. This would tell the primary focus of an individual’s need further helps in giving the clarity over one’s interest in a particular subject/topic and give a boost in encouraging in what a student likes to do in his career.

4. **Being more accountable on what they teach** – Being self conscious about what they are teaching everyday and justice to one’s contribution of valued teaching methods. Every teacher/professor should be accountable to see the results of their teaching by not just comparing with the outcome of the grades but to evaluate the real test of application in a particular subject that has impacted the learning experiences of the students.

5. If students are ranked based on certain assessment, ‘**Let’s start ranking the teachers**’ – It is important to equally rank the teachers like we rank the students. Based on the improvements driven in the classroom learning by comparing the percentile increase of the students over a period of time and also full fledged support given to students in order to help them improve in their studies and overall mastery of a subject. This evaluation should be made the head of the teacher departments and institutes who should definitely play a key role in adapting and implementing these schemes in the functionality of their education system and methods.

6. **Train the teachers to teach things differently**– It is important from the institution’s/university’s end to provide equal support to the teachers by making them understand the value of diverse method of education which has to be constantly discussed, debated and judged based on the requirement and need to implicate it with the syllabus. This can be possible with the help of departmental heads or principals of the schools with regular mentorship given to the teachers with different training tools and techniques.
Impact of LEED + C model on students with equal support of teachers

Anticipated Results

• **Greater Capacity to Analyze** – With the capacity to relate with what a student has learnt and experienced in his innovative educational environment the capability of an individual would be far better when compared to the programmed classes. The analytical thinking ability would far better through the exercises and creative activities a student would have experienced in the class. All of this will added to greater confidence in one’s career path.

• **Clarity in thinking** – The activities participated in classroom sessions of schools/colleges that involved the freedom to think and express in their own terms in relation to the topic of the curriculum will create more maturity, more over precision on a subject or topic, this would developed as a habit of their learning process and continue with the same attitude of approach because they are molded by the right course of thinking.

• **Freedom to Express and innovate** – The dialogue and interactive sessions driven by entrepreneurial approach provides a great chance to enhance their capabilities and innovate their small little ideas to make them more resourceful. This is possible by mastering the communication with respect to class experience and flow of innovative ideas that comes across during a debate in class with respect to a subject. The channel of experimenting and experiencing will help this phase.
• Learn the power to sell ideas – Conversion of an idea into a practical expression of selling which will become a habit overtime as the training and learning sessions experienced at the classrooms will helps a student understand in creative and innovative thinking by making mistakes in the primary assumptions, correcting them when needed with the help of the teacher’s/professor’s mentorship and constant evaluation which will help both the students and teachers to assess from their learnings. This will in turn generate clarity over thoughts that would create a gateway for what exactly is needed to sell an idea. For instance to sell a product over an innovative marketing idea.

• Creative application possible in the walk of corporate/career challenges – Application of creativity is one most important things required for the 21st century. It is possible to enhance this key substance with the influence of the LEED + C model. The mantra here is the development of the thinking capabilities and the adaption to one’s comfort of mastery over the theories of subject interests. Identification, relation and implementation are the 3 stages a student/ individual undergoes during this model training at school/college. The result of which one’s future career or corporate interests and focus towards one’s defined goal is fulfilled.

• Power to make tough and right decisions – Making the right decision is one of the main challenges in any walk of one’s career path. It can be with the corporate world or an entrepreneurial journey. An individual learns the method of balancing the act of taking this important step by anticipating the future expectations. The level of maturity is enhanced by the practice of training exercises the students have learnt in their entire career journey and path with the suggested model. It helps an individual to take a stand to make those tough and right decisions.

• Ability to solve complex problems – The tougher the problem the more delay in making decisions, implementing the idea to an execution of reality. A complex problem can lead to a chain of reactions of delay affecting the smooth process of work. Experiential learning will help in this situation with the help of creative learning and innovative thinking to come up with alternate solution for a particular problem and make the most complex problem easier to solve and re enforce the smooth process of work. All this is possible by learning and hearing to what others in the class have said and the teacher’s mentorship of basics along with the self implication of improved flow of thought process. The combination of these will make it up to fulfill the required needs.

• Entrepreneurial behavioral and skill-set – This model would create a great influence on behavior change of seeing and perceiving things a little different. As
it is a complete opportunity given to students to explore, experiment, express, experience and even decide what they think is right according to them. It is like a role play where a student/individual’s practices in class could become a replication who he/she stands for tomorrow. It is greatly support by the teachers/professors with their constant participation, motivation and assessment done at every stage of their learning sessions, who are also equally important and responsible in molding every student’s skill-set and creating a success path.

**Conclusion:** There are many ways to represent a system, in a way one teaches and also different methods one could design the curriculum to suit and need of the education benefit to the fullest. I have come up with my LEED + C model from my understandings and research data to impart in the method of teaching curriculum which will help not just the students in their overall experience of learning and their personal development also will help the teachers learn new things everyday by the process of assessment. Personality development is one of the key things required to master for one’s future needs which will in turn reflect his overall development in the future. This has to be molded at the early level of his/her’s learning phase as the level of grasping is better and adaptable. So qualities like leadership skills, providing a platform to experience creative learning with some of the curriculum related activities and engage them to do things differently by innovate thinking and mastering the skills through the core learning experience, self evaluation and the assessment made by the teachers which become the correction points for individuals if made any mistakes and better them by not repeating them in the future which is one of the nicest things this model can teach that would directly impact in one’s entrepreneurial journey. There is a great need for innovative methods of teaching every session in the class that will definitely have a strong influence on every individual student that will create an understanding for an individual to identify his/her interests and aspirations at the very early stage. This would definitely ensure to identify one’s own career interests by discovery their weaknesses and strengths to create opportunities for them and also creating opportunities for others which is one of the most important function as a leader and an Entrepreneur.
References


A Critical Review and a Radical Proposal. Gabriel Hawawini.(Year 2011) .The Internationalization of Higher Education Institutions :


Guido Schwerdt Program on Educational Policy and Governance, Harvard University and Ifo Institute for Economic Research and CESifo Martin R. West Harvard Graduate School of Education(Year 2011). ‘The Impact of Alternative Grade Configurations on Student Outcomes through Middle and High School’. Website: www.hks.harvard.edu.
Group of authors - saima siddiqi, sakshi jain and meenakshi mital, jyoti raina, preeti verma, jyotirmayee nayak, b.m.k. raju and avtar singh, sadia mahmood and tahira khatoon, sukhwant bajwa and shalu goyal, mohammad iqbal mattoo (Year 2011) *Journal of educational research indian educational review.*

Geeta Gandhi Kingdon (Year 2007), *The progress of social education in India.*