UNIT 4: TEACHING AIDS IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

UNIT STRUCTURE

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4.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- define the meaning and characteristics of teaching aids;
- explain the different types of teaching aids;
- identify the different projected and non-projected aids of teaching;
- comprehend the significance of using teaching aids in education.

4.2 INTRODUCTION

Can you remember your schooling days? We all liked the class where our teachers used some object or instruments like tape-recorder to make us listen to a Borgeet while teaching us about the contribution of Mahapurusha Sankradev or the Mathe-matics class when teachers taught us using some different technique. So most of you have seen your teachers using some devices or objects in the classroom. People learn a more when

the teaching have an extra -effect. Use of such object or instruments not only makes the classroom more interesting and meaningful. This are termed as teaching aid. In this unit, we will discuss about the concept, nature and different types of teaching aids. Moreover, we will also make discussion on different forms of projected and non-projected aids used in the classroom and its importance of teaching aids in education.

4.3 MEANING OF TEACHING AIDS

A teacher has an inherent desire that his teaching should be as effective as possible. The lesson/ content, teaches transact should be carefully attended, clearly understood, grasped and fixed in the minds of his students. In other words, a good teaching always aims at the effective communication and appropriate learning outcomes. For realizing both these objectives, a teacher has to make use of different types of aid material just as charts, maps, models, concrete objects, films, tapes, projectors, radio, television and similar other resources. All such materials, instruments and resources that aid to the effective realization of his teaching objectives may be termed as teaching aids in the field of teaching learning.

The term 'teaching aid' is composed of two words- teaching and aid. As you all know that teaching is the act of facilitating learning and aid generally means help or assistance. A teaching aid is a tool used by the teacher to help in better facilitating the teaching-learning process. It is one of the means by which teachers are able to bring life into the theoretical texts. In addition, it is a means of personification of the concrete texts in the books. Teaching aids thus prove to be a great supplement for the teachers when the reinforcement of a skill or concept is necessary. Hence, it is a means to involve the learners physically, mentally, emotionally, and environmentally. Teaching aids help the teachers to involve more and more sense organs of the learners in the learning process. As such a teaching aid can involve the learners physically through the use of his senses and acting, mentally through his use of mind and thinking, emotionally through his excitement, and environmentally by making him aware of his environment.

Teaching aids are used to enable the learners to achieve the learning objectives effectively and interestingly.

We see teachers using different kinds of aids in the classroom such as blackboard, maps, charts, globes, and pictures etc., which are traditional in nature. With the advent of science and technology, at present, electronic media have come in a big way and are apt to influence not only communication and education, but also the manner and behavior, lifestyle, attitudes, and interests of the students. These media and materials provide direct as well as vicarious or improvised learning experiences to the students at all levels of education. These include traditional aids as well as electronic media evolved from time to time in large variety and great novelty.

4.3.1 Definitions of Teaching Aids

From the above discussion, it is clear to you that a teaching aid or a tool used by teachers in any type of educational stage that helps the learners for their improvement of reading and other skills as well as provide a lively educational environment by removing the traditional monotony of the classroom. For your better understanding about teaching aid, the following definitions given by different thinkers and educationist are put here-

In the words of Burton, "Teaching aids are those sensory object or images which initiate or stimulate and re-inforce learning." Goods' Dictionary of Education defines teaching aids as "anything by means of which learning process may be encouraged or carried on through the sense of hearing or sense of sight."

Edgar Dale stated- "these aids are those device by the use of which communication of ideas between persons and groups in various teaching and training situations is helped. These are also termed as multi-sensory materials."

According to C.V. Good, "audio -visual aids are those aids which help in completing the triangular process of learning i.e.

motivation, classification and stimulation."



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is teaching aid? Give some examples

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Q 2: State the definition of teaching aid as given by Good.

.....

4.3.2 Nature of Teaching Aids

The above discussion on teaching aids definitely helps you to comprehend the concept and meaning of teaching aid. On the basis of the discussion, we can derive some of the characteristics of the teaching aids. Some of them are-

- A teaching aid is a tool used by the teacher to help in better facilitating the teaching-learning process.
- Teaching aid is a means of personification of the concrete texts in the books.
- It gives meaning to the text.
- Teaching aids are integral part of teaching-learning process.
- It stimulate and re-inforce learning on the part of the students.
- Teachers commonly use aids in the classroom to supplement their instruction.
- Teaching aids are crucial means in realization of instructional objectives.
- These aids involve the learners physically, mentally, emotionally, and environmentally in the teaching-learning situation.
- Effectiveness of teaching as well as the effectiveness of teacher highly depends on the use of teaching aids.

- These are great supplements for the teachers.
- These aids are considered as motivational tool in the teaching-learning situation.

4.3.3 Qualities of Teaching Aids

As you have come to know that teachers commonly use aids in the classroom to supplement their instruction as well to motivate the students towards his/her teaching. As already mentioned, effectiveness of teaching depends on effectiveness of the teaching. Again the effectiveness of these teaching aids depends on certain qualities. These qualities enable students to benefit from aids. Let's discuss these qualifies of teaching aid-

- **Accessibility**: The most important factor of any educational aid's effectiveness is its accessibility to students. Educational aids must be made available to all students within a classroom.
- **Visibility:** For educational aids to be effective, they must be clearly visible. For example-Boards provide convenient visual platforms from which students observe and copy information Now a days, electronic boards, or "whiteboards," can be linked directly to a teacher's computer to display information that can be altered directly or remotely.
- **Practicability:** Teaching aids are most effective when they introduce students to knowledge and skills that prepare them for the real world. Desktop and laptop computers are useful for this purpose. They can be used to access educational and creative material while familiarizing students with technology
- **Interactivity:** Teaching aids become effective when they encourage participation from learners. The greater the degree of interactivity, the greater the benefit is to the student.
- **Usability:** Educational aid's effectiveness lies highly on the ability of the person using it. Both students and teachers must be familiar with the aid's operation and its intended purpose before

it can be used effectively. For example, an art teacher who wishes to use a slide projector should be aware that such a device requires periodic maintenance and is ideally placed some distance from the screen.

4.3.4 Types of Teaching Aids

In a classroom, a teacher may use variety of teaching aids. For their appropriate use and purpose of use, it is essential for you all to know the types of teaching aids. Teaching aids and material can be classified in a number of ways. However, here we may mention two different approaches for their classification.

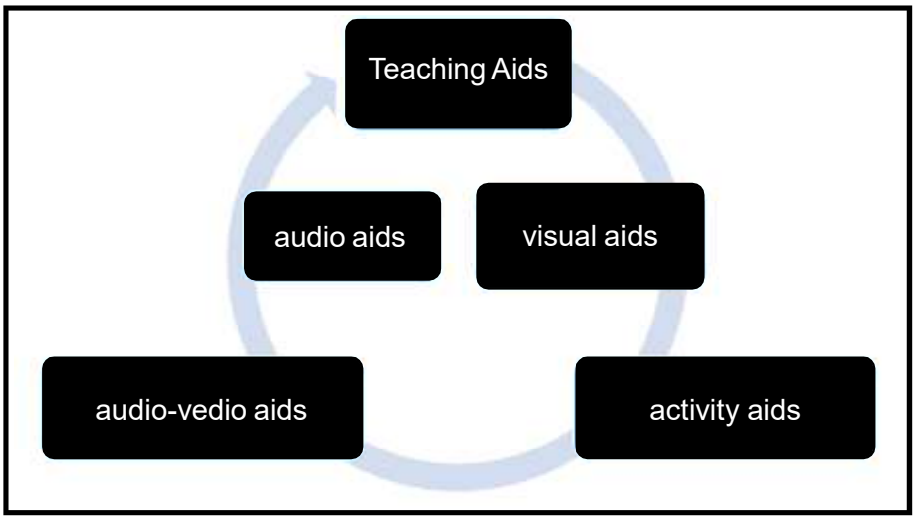
- **Traditional Approach:** This is an age-old approach, and according to this, here we can classify teaching aids into four categories-
  - Audio Aids: This category includes audio aids the aids which call upon the auditory senses and thus help the students to learn through listening. The examples are phonograph records, radio broadcasts and magnetic tape recordings.
  - Visual Aids: Under the traditional approach, another important type of teaching aid is visual aids. The teaching aids those materials which call upon the visual senses and then help the learners to learn through viewing. These aids may be further broken into subcategories: projective and non-projective aids. We will discuss about these types in the later section of this unit.

  The teaching aids, which use the sense of vision, are called Visual aids. For example, actual objects, models, pictures, charts, maps, flash cards, flannel board, bulletin board, chalkboard, overhead projector, slides etc. Out of these, black board and chalk are the common visual aids used by teacher.
  - Audio-Visual Aids: Under this category, another most significant types of teaching aid is audio-visual aids. These

aids call upon both the auditory and visual senses and thus help the learners to learn through listening as well as viewing. These aids involve the sense of vision as well as hearing hence, they are called Audio-Visual aids. Examples are television, sound motion pictures, synchronized audio-slide projection, radio vision and computer-assisted instructions.

- Activity Aids: We may place the aids that facilitate learning through sight and sound as well as through doing in this category. The examples of such aids are dramatization and role -playing, experimentation in a laboratory or workshop, etc.

Fig: 4.1 Types of Teaching aids under Traditional Approach

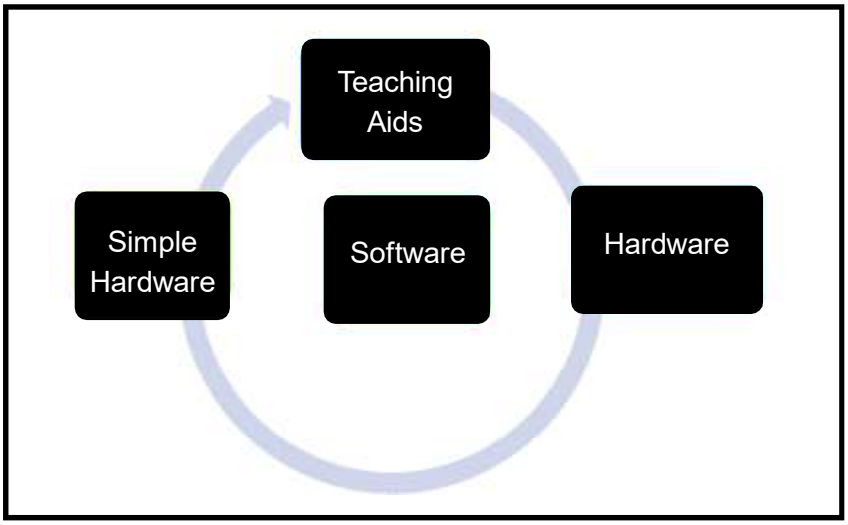


- **Technological Approach:** We have seen that the structure of classroom has been changing with the change of time and situation. Teacher now-a days no longer confine themselves in blackboard and charts or maps. Technology has touched the classroom. As we are moving towards a more digitalized society with many things becoming digital, children are being exposed to technology. Many new technical devices have been added to classroom teaching. According to this approach, the teaching aids may be classified into the following categories---
  - Simple hardware: It includes aids like-magic lantern, epidiascope, slide projectors, filmstrip projectors, opaque

projectors and overhead projector, etc.

- Hardware: Radio, television, radio-vision, tele -lecture, records player, tape recorder, motion pictures, teaching machines, and computer are best example of hardware types of teaching aids under the technological approach.
- Software: Software types of teaching aids includes- slides and filmstrips, pictures and other printed material, graphic aids such as graphs, charts, maps, diagrams, cartoons and posters and three-dimensional objects like models and specimens.

Fig: 4.2 Types of Teaching aids under Technological Approach





CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 3: State the types of teaching aid under technological approach.

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4.4. MEANING OF PROJECTETED AND NON PROJECTED AIDS

Besides the above mentioned types of teaching aids, there is another category of teaching aids as Projected and Non-projected aids.

- **Projected Aids:** These teaching aids are those aids that project pictures upon a screen by using a certain type of machine. They can be used suitably for both large groups as well as small groups. Examples of projected aids are opaque projectors, slides, filmstrips, overhead projectors, LCD panels. Moreover, projected Aids include Power point presentations, slides, film-strips, filmstrip projector, films, transparencies, and overhead projector, TV/VCR as they can be projected on screen or even against white-washed wall to give an enlarged image of the material. The large, bright and colorful larger than life images make them more effective.
- **Some of the Projected Aids:** As mentioned above, projected aids are projected upon a screen by using certain types of machine. Some of the projected aids are discussed in detail here-
- **The television:** The television is often used as a substitute for the class room. Being a visual as well as an oral medium it always has a greater impact on the student and it can claim their whole attention. Other oral and visual aids can be employed by the teacher on television and thus the effectiveness of many other aids can be combined in one medium. For all its potential, television as a teaching medium cannot succeed on its own. The cooperation of the class teacher is essential.
- **Film strips:** This is one of the important projected aids. The projector can be loaded in advanced and 30to 40clear pictures can be projected on a white wall or screen. The images are sharp and clear and it is visible to a small group even in a class room that is not darkened. One great advantage of this projector is that the picture can be stopped at any point or as long as one likes. Thus the dimension of time is under the teachers control as the pictures can be projected at appropriate moments according to the progress of the lesson.
- **Colour slides:** They are cheaper than film strips and are cheaper to make. Any colour picture can be taken with a good camera and the resulting transparency mounted in a special cardboard or metal

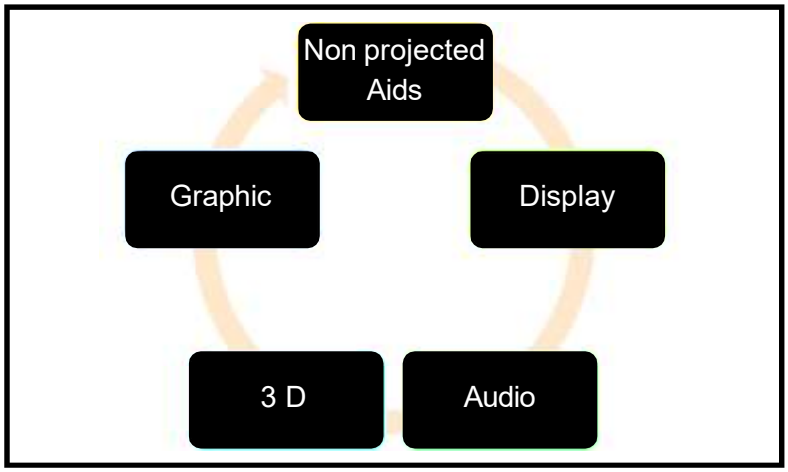
mounts for showing in the class. They can be projected in the screen using a film strip projector with an attachment for showing such mounted transparencies. Up to 36slides can be loaded in advance so that they can be shown one after the other without any trouble or waste of time during the lesson. It is useful to have a rear-projection screen which enables the teacher to show the transparencies without having a darkened room. This makes it convenient for students to take down notes as the teacher is explaining the pictures to them. A further advantage of this type of screen is that the projector and the screen are close together so that the teacher can operate the former and point to the latter quite easily at the same time. They can also provide material for testing the four skills

- **The opaque projector or epidiascope:** The opaque projector or epidiascope can project any paper from a book a photograph, a chart or even small objects on to a screen is a darkened room. The chief advantage of this projector over the slide projector is that any material can be shown without any advance technical preparation. But the main shortcoming is the need for complete darkness in the room which is often difficult to achieve and which interferes with other classroom activities like writing more over the machine is very bulky. Hence its use is usually restricted to the display of illustrated materials during public lectures.
- **Overhead projector:** Overhead Projector is one among the projected aids. This aids become useful under the condition of a constant power supply. That is to say, all projection equipment requires electric power for operation. It can project the diagrams that are on transparencies, with a bright and magnified size. On transparencies, any figure, diagram, statistical information, tables, etc; could be drawn, and projected by using OHP. The projected diagram on the screen or upon a white wall before the students in a class becomes one of the best instructional aids.
- **Slide Projector:** Slide Projector is yet another projected instructional aid. It works with the power supply. Similar to transparencies in OHP,

slides are used as software part here.

- **Video Cassette Player (VCP):** Sometimes pre-recorded video tapes can be played through television in the classroom. Video films on educational topics shown through television in the class room have the same effect on the students as the ordinary cinematic educational films do. Video films have the added advantage over ordinary films in that the arrangement is compact and requires little space and time for manipulation. It is the most convenient of all audio- visual teaching - learning materials
- **LCD Projector:** The LCD projector in the laboratory may be used for instruction. It can be used for presentations in the main Library or Library Classroom. Occasionally, it is moved to C-3 for presentations as well. As a general rule, teachers do not use the projector in individual classrooms.
- **Non-Projected Aids:** The visual and audio-visual aids, which are shown directly to the learners, are known as non-projected aids. Such aids include charts, diagrams, posters, flash cards, maps, cartoons, display boards, models, puppets, etc. These aids do not require projector electricity or projection screen. Such materials can be simple shown, it can be hung or touched for example- Chalkboard, Whiteboard, Flannel board, Magnet board, Charts, Posters, Pictorial Materials, and Models etc. They can hence be used with good results. They provide first hand experiences and also make the learners actively participate. They add an interest and involvement of the learner and ensure better results and longer retention. It is to mention here that non projected Aids are classified into four sub categories-

Fig: 4.3 Classification of Non-projected Aids



Some of the Non-Projected Aids

Some of the non-projected aids are discussed in detail here-

- **Black board:** Blackboard represents the oldest and most commonly used teaching aid. Although not a visual aid itself it can be used for the display of visual material in the classroom teaching. Blackboard, in fact, is synonymous to a classroom. A class can function without chair, desks or even rooms to sit in but not without the aid of a blackboard.
- **Bulletin Board:** The bulletin board is a sheet of wood, masonry cork, and celesta similar material set within a frame. The used for displaying pictures, charts, posters, clippings, photographs, or other learning materials, it serves as a perpetual magazine. It gives information of direct concern to the pupils and taps their curiosity and desire for knowledge. It provides a practical outlet for artistic talent and creative ability. It helps to unify class sprit by creating a sense of responsibility, appreciation and accomplishment. It stimulates student's interest and enthusiasm to a particular lesson. It must be simple and must telegraph its message quickly, easily and efficiently. The material must be changed frequently. Display must be done neatly and well.
- **Flannel Board:** The flannel board is somewhat like a Blackboard. But it has added advantages of colour, movement and quick removal,

leading to more interest and more learning. Its extreme flexibility permits various arrangements to be tried experimentally. It is a very useful teaching aid, which must be tried and used effectively by language teachers. It is especially helpful in presenting events or ideas in sequence as story unfolds, a report is given, demonstration is performed, steps in process are given or basic concepts are presented in a definite order.

- **Map:** Generally maps and globes are used both in Science and Social Science subjects. They are indispensable aid in teaching many subjects particularly, Geography, History and Economics. They are defined as "the graphic visual representations of the earth's surface, or position of it. Maps may cover different themes as well as locations. They are constructed based on the information borrowed from various sources. However, map writing is a special skill which needs proper and adequate training and practice. A map will be accurate representation on plain surface in the form of a diagram drawn to scale, as, the details of boundaries of continent countries, etc. Geographical details like location of mountains, rivers, altitude of a place, contours of the earth surface and important locations can also be represented accurately with reference to a convenient scale with suitable color scheme.
- **Globe:** Globe is a spherical model of the earth. A good globe provide correct information about areas, distances, directions and geographical shapes. Even the best flat map cannot achieve accuracy comparable to that of a good globe, as a flat representation of any segment of a spherical surface involves certain unavoidable inaccuracies. The language of maps and globes is largely a language of colors and symbols, standing for locations, boundaries, rivers, routes and other features. Color helps in legibility as well as beauty in maps and globes. Some symbols on a map look like the things that they are supposed to represent like international road signs while others are rather arbitrary and pupils should be trained to interpret them.

- **Charts:** Charts are visual aids, where the diagrams have two dimensions, length and breadth. Hence these are called 2-D aids i.e., two-dimensional aids. Charts are standard equipment in any subjects that are used in classrooms. They are the cheap and best, available teaching aids. They are very advantageous, handy and can be used meaningfully. They enhance the quality of teaching-learning session. Most of the charts contain diagram or a series of diagrams. It may contain the portraits of kings, pedigree tree, flowcharts etc. Science charts usually contain scientific diagrams, where as in case of the subject mathematics, students can locate graphs, pie-charts, charts showing geometrical figures. In subjects coming under social sciences, the charts may deal with some important points written boldly, connected by means of arrows, details of certain dynasty's chronological details etc.,
- **Graphs:** Graphs are flat pictures which employ, clots, lines or pictures to visualize numerical and statistical data. Graphs are of several types, namely, line graph, bar graph and circle graph etc.
  - Line Graph: Here the data is represented with the help of simple lines horizontally or vertically drawn.
  - Bar Graph: A bar graph consists of bars arranged, horizontally or vertically from a 'Zero' base. The colour, length and size of the bats represent different variables and values.
  - Circle Graph: It is also known as Pi- Graph. Here the data is represented in a circle; it may make use of different colours to represent different variables.
- **Model:** Models are substitutes of real things and it is a three-dimensional representation of the real thing. Hence they will be concrete in appearance. Through its concrete appearance, a model helps in clear understanding of structure or functions of a real thing. It is also said that, a model is the replica of original things. It is the miniature of the original one, for gigantic original things.

4.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF TEACHING AIDS IN MODERN EDUCATION

Teaching aids are integral part of the teaching-learning process. They are inseparable part for every teacher. Everything is changing with the changes of time. The need and expectation of the students as well as parents have changed. Teaching is not an easy task. Teaching does not merely mean imparting content knowledge to the students. It is much more than that. Motivating the students towards the teaching and retaining them on a particular track is the toughest job, a teacher has to carry along with teaching. Different teaching aids serves as the best supplement for the teacher to meet the changing needs of the students. Moreover, we are moving towards a more technological society with many things becoming digital, children as well as teachers are being exposed to technology. Video games and iPods are now interesting playthings for the learners. Therefore, they might feel bored with the traditional lecture method of teaching, which is quite common even today. Teaching aids improve the quality of education by making it interesting for the learners. In the modern-day education system, teaching aids have become a norm in the classroom. The traditional classrooms had only blackboard and chalk as the teaching aids, but in modern classrooms, we find white and smart boards, LCD projectors, Computers and laptops, screens, etc. The teachers are expected to focus on the fact that students grow with technology, and therefore, integrating the same into the curriculum and teaching strategy is very important .It simplifies teaching-learning process. As such, teaching aids are significant in modern education.

The following points will help you to realize the significance of teaching aid in modern education-

- **Strengthen Learning:** Teaching aids are an integral component in any classroom. Teaching aids helps the learners to improve reading comprehension skills, illustrating or reinforcing a skill or concept, differentiating instruction and relieving anxiety or boredom by presenting information in a new and exciting way. Teaching aids

also engage students' other senses since there are no limits in what aids can be utilized when supplementing a lesson. Thus it strengthen learning on the part of the students.

- **Improved comprehension:** Teaching aids are helping teachers to close the gap and improve the reading comprehension skills of their students. Using teaching aids like-magazine and newspaper articles, prints ads and even comic books assist in helping students comprehend text and improve their comprehension skill.
- **Reinforcing tool:** Teaching aids prove to be a formidable supplement for teachers when the reinforcement of a skill or concept is necessary. It not only allows students more time to practice, but they also present the information in a way which offers students a different way to engage with the material. Teaching aid acts as a reinforcing tool for the teacher.
- **Individualized learning:** It is important for teachers to reach all learners in a classroom. Therefore, the use of teaching aids facilitates this objective by assisting teachers in differentiating instruction. Using aids such as graphs, charts, flashcards, videos, provides learners with visual stimulation and the opportunity to access the content from a different vantage point. This gives each learner the opportunity to interact with the content in a way which allows them to comprehend more easily.
- **Lively learning environment:** Teaching aids help to make the learning environment interesting and engaging for the students. Teaching aids are improving the quality of education in today's schools. Moreover it provides students with the sense of excitement they desire.
- **Realization of educational objectives:** Teaching aids help the teacher to realize both the general and instructional objectives of teaching. Using different types of teaching aids not only motivates learners but also facilitates learning.
- **Real knowledge provider:** Teaching aids are considered as real knowledge provider tool. When a teacher uses different kinds of

teaching aids, it encourages their sensual learning. As we know that senses are the gateway of knowledge as such, knowledge gained through visual, audio or audio-video effect, provides the learner a concreate knowledge as well as the real knowledge.

Teaching aids are becoming the norm in the classroom. As traditional classrooms with blackboard and chalk become a thing of the past, and smart classrooms become the norm, teaching aids are growing in popularity and advancement. Blackboards are being replaced with white and smart boards. TVs are being replaced with LCD projectors and screens. And educators are becoming more focused on students growing with technology and integrating it into the curriculum.



4.6 LET US SUM UP

After going through the unit, we can summarize it as-

- A teaching aid is a tool used by the teacher to help in better facilitating the teaching-learning process.
- A teaching aid can involve the learners physically through the use of his senses and acting, mentally through his use of mind and thinking, emotionally through his excitement, and environmentally by making him aware of his environment.
- In the words of Burton, "Teaching aids are those sensory object or images which initiate or stimulate and re-inforce learning."
- The effectiveness of these teaching aids depends on certain qualities like-accessibility, usability, practicability, interactivity.
- Teaching aids and material can be classified in a number of ways. However, here we may mention two different approaches for their classification. They are-traditional approach and Technological Approach.
- The types of teaching aids under traditional approach are- Audio Aids, Visual Aids, Audio-Visual aids, Activity Aids.
- The types of teaching aid under technological approach are-Simple Hardware, Hardware and Software.

- Projected Aid are those aids that project pictures upon a screen by using a certain type of machine. Examples of projected aids are opaque projectors, slides, filmstrips, overhead projectors, LCD panels.
- The visual and audio-visual aids, which are shown directly to the learners, are known as non-projected aids
- Examples of non-projected aids are charts, diagrams, posters, flash cards, maps, cartoons, display boards, models, puppets, etc.
- Everything is changing with the changes of time. The need and expectation of the students as well as parents have changed.
- Different teaching aids serves as the best supplement for the teacher to meet the changing needs of the students. Moreover, we are moving towards a more technological society with many things becoming digital, children as well as teachers are being exposed to technology.
- Teaching aids are becoming the norm in the classroom. As traditional classrooms with blackboard and chalk become a thing of the past, and smart classrooms become the norm, teaching aids are growing in popularity and advancement.
- The teaching aids are significant in modern education as it strengthen learning, improves comprehension, act as reinforcing tool and serves individualized learning.

4.7 FURTHER READING

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4.8 ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: A teaching aid is a tool used by the teacher to help in better facilitating the teaching-learning process. It is one of the means by which teachers are able to bring life into the theoretical texts. Examples of teaching aids are-blackboard, maps, charts, globes, and pictures, tape-recorder etc.

Ans to Q No 2: Regarding teaching aid, C.V. Good states- "audio -visual aids are those aids which help in completing the triangular process of learning i.e. motivation, classification and stimulation."

Ans to Q No 3: The types of teaching aid under technological approach are-

- Simple Hardware
- Hardware
- Software

4.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short Questions (Answer each question in around 150 words).

Q 1: What is teaching aid?

Q 2: Why teaching aids are important?

Q 3: What are the types of teaching aids?

Q 4: What is projected aid? Give example.

Long Questions. (Answer each question in around 300-500 words)

Q 1: State the nature of teaching aid. Discuss the qualities of teaching aid.

Q 2: Elaborate the teaching aids under the traditional approach with example.

Q 3: Discuss the projected and non-projected aids mentioning some of them.

Q 4: Why is it essential for a teacher to use teaching aid in the classroom?

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