
EDUCATIONAL TRIPS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

The societal progress is totally relying on the nation's education system and policy. India as a developing country has to strive through the remedial steps to improve the education system by developing the education pedagogical measures. The students learn new concepts through Indoor means such as class-room teaching, presentation, Group-discussion and Out-door means such as Educational Trips, Apprenticeship etc. The Research paper is focused on the role of the educational trips in accurate understanding and retention of the new and advanced concept for the students. It also focuses on the reinforcement of the concepts through the sight-seeing experiences.

BACKGROUND

The objective of the education is to create awareness about the existing knowledge in the relative field among the students. The primary sources to provide the learning facilities are well-qualified teachers. Teachers can change the ideology of the whole society. Schools, Colleges and Professional Institutions are service provider in the society. To deliver the lectures sincerely and to complete the course cannot serve the purpose to produce the knowledgeable as well as employable generations.

The keen interest in the subject can be emerged by various ways of teaching pedagogy. To awaken intelligence is the basic motto of the whole educational system. At the time of syllabus designing, the student's involvement in the subject becomes very critical issue.

The Research-Paper has focussed on the Role of Educational/Field-Trips in awakening the interest level of the student. It is basically the Hands on experience where fear is absent as well as there is presence of joy of discovery.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Paper focuses on the analysis of the role of the Educational Trips in strengthening the knowledge base. Few objectives of the Educational Trips or Field Trips are discussed below through which one can identify the role of the trips:



- To awaken Intelligence in the educator and in the student
- To emphasize the attentive mind
- To enable the sense of discovery & quality of Quite-ness
- To reinforce the class room teaching
- To make engagement of the student into the subject

EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

As per the definition provided by Wikipedia, “Field **trip or excursion**, known as **school trip** in the UK, New Zealand, Philippines and **school tour** in Ireland, is a journey by a group of people to a place away from their normal environment. The purpose of the trip is usually [observation](#) for [education](#), non-experimental [research](#) or to provide students with experiences outside their everyday activities, such as going camping with teachers and their classmates. The aim of this research is to observe the subject in its natural state and possibly collect samples.”

In [Western culture](#) people first come across this method during school years when classes are taken on school trips to visit a [geological](#) or [geographical](#) feature of the landscape, for example. Much of the early research into the [natural sciences](#) was of this form. [Charles Darwin](#) is an important example of someone who has contributed to science through the use of field trips.



Research has shown that field trips can be remembered long after a visit ([Falk & Dierking, 1997](#)); ([Wolins, Jensen, & Ulzheimer, 1992](#)), can influence career choice ([Salmi, 2003](#)); ([Cosmos](#)

[Corporation, 1998](#)), can increase interest and engagement in science regardless of prior interest in a topic ([Bonderup Dohn, 2011](#)), and result in affective gains such as more positive feelings toward a topic (Csikszentmihalyi & Hermanson, 1995). Their importance is supported by professional organizations such as the National Science Teachers Association which asserts field trips can “deepen and enhance” classroom study (NSTA 1999) and the National Research Council who assert a quality science curriculum is one that extends beyond the walls of the classroom (1996).



UPDATED INFORMATION

The study was conducted by the COSI in Columbus, Ohio to know the role of educational trips in the year 2011. From the 357 responses to the web-based questionnaire and additional interviews, the concluding remarks can be discussed as follows:

- Teachers believe students learn best in stimulating environments.
- Teachers believe field trips in general offer unique learning opportunities, but teachers typically measure learning through structured assessments (i.e., tests).
- Teachers want field trips to have a detailed schedule where all students interact with the same exhibits/presenters, so they can give their class an assignment based on their experience.
- Teachers want pre- and post-visit information with specifics about the field trip, including behavior expectations and lessons and vocabulary that reinforce the topic.

ASPECTS OF THE TOPIC

Field Trips initiate the interest in the minds of the students due to their own involvement in the subject. These Trips help the overall learning system for the sustainable development of the subject. Few aspects can be discussed as under:

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- Engagement: There are few subjects in which student get initiated through the hands on experience i.e. History, Geography, Science, Commerce, Fine Arts, Languages and even in Literature. Teachers convert the educational trips into the Mobile Classrooms through proper instruction about the data collection and submission of the assignments.
 - Reinforcement: Educational Trips in the planetarium reinforce the classroom teaching and helpful to understand the whole solar system completely. The different Museums, Art gallery, historical monuments, Aquariums, Parliament Assemblies, Mountains, Forests, Planetarium, Beaches, National Parks, Stock Exchanges, and Exhibitions are the few examples of the destinations for the Educational Trips.
 - Socialization: Students go to the field trips with their classmates and other school mates. The Trips give them opportunity to travel in a group. They understand the importance of the team-work and role of the each member of the group.
 - Exposure: Students belong to various family-backgrounds gets the chance to explore the untapped location due to the arrangement of the Educational Trips by the schools. It becomes great opportunity for those students who may not get chance to visit that Historical Monument, Museum or an Art Gallery otherwise.
 - Curiosity: The Educational Trips initiate the curiosity among the students for that specific subject. It is a fun-loving visit with their friends and class-mates. The Human psychology may be affected due to the more questions asked by the friends from the group. Curiosity can create more interest with the planned assignments which are announced before the trip by the teachers. A group of students try their best to find out the questions which creates more knowledge generation.
 - Retention: The students capture the knowledge by observing objects. It is very effective training to learn new subjects. It becomes memories for the students known as 'Episodic Memories'. Episodic Memories helps children to retain information for longer time periods.
 - New Sights: Students and teacher both learn interesting and new sides of the subject through the educational trips for the subject related destinations. Observation is the one of the important tool to capture the overall aspect of the subject. Basically it is the new educational environment beyond the classroom teaching. Students get the knowledge through various experiences. Schools/colleges cannot provide each experience inside the premises. The students get the thrilling experiences of the exotic wildlife, rare plants, stars, planets which create new sight among them about the subject.
 - Bonding: Field Trips create bonding among the classmates with the unique planning by the teacher.
 - Classroom Inspiration
 - Connection to Community



ISSUES OF EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Educational trips or field Trips can inspire student towards its subject, sense of discovery, engage student but the main issue with the trips are the safety and security of the students.

- School Teacher must plan properly and identify the objective of the study tour.
- Inform the parents well in time and get their permission in written
- Suggest specific dress codes to the students in case of the younger age group
- Assign the numbers to the students to take pre-cautionary steps in case of the young students
- Announce the relevant assignments which are directly related to the important aspect of the subject
- Segregate the whole class into the five to seven groups
- Get the services of the expert guides available at the destination of the Trip

FUTURE ASPECT

As per the referred studies, information collected from the teaching fraternity and feedback from the students, it can be concluded that the Education Trips are awakening the intelligence in the educator as well as students. Teachers must plan the educational trips seriously by covering overall aspects of the trip through allocation of the various assignments. The assignment preparation will be converted into the attentive mind of the students during the field trips. The visit to the Museums, Art gallery, Historical monuments, Aquariums, Parliament Assemblies, Mountains, Forests, Planetarium, Beaches, National Parks, Stock Exchanges, and Exhibitions creates the sense of discoveries. The student observes the each aspect of the subject by using his senses, which creates

quality of quietness. It reinforces the class room teaching by their personal experiences. It is the best method to make students engage into the subject.

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