

Lecture Method

The lecture method is extremely ancient and it came into being when textbooks had not yet been made. By the lecture method is meant teaching by the use of lecture or speech. Under this method, a teacher tries to explain a topic to students in simple and comprehensible language. He does not make use of any textbook or any other medium. He tries to present the topic in an effective way so that it can be comprehended by students well. Generally this method is used at the secondary and higher secondary level.

Procedure

Under this method, the teacher explains facts and events in a detailed analysis. The teacher is more active under it. During the

ancient ashram system in India, the teachers used to tell the text to students in order to make them learn it by rote. That system was in fact a form of lecture. The only difference between the two is that those lectures were based on individualised instruction while the modern lecture method is based on class instruction.

Application of the Lecture Method

The application of this method has proved beneficial for the following purposes :

1. Some students are very afraid of the extent of content. They find themselves unable to manage with it, so they do not manifest any willingness to study it too. Therefore, it is necessary that such an extensive content be presented by a method that it can be presented before them in a very brief form. This work can be accomplished by the lecture method successfully. Besides, a general knowledge of the subject can be imparted to students by this method. It makes their reading the text meaningful. Therefore, the lecture method should be used to summarise the extensive content.
2. Before presenting a new topic, unit or lesson, a teacher can acquaint students with its main points, in order to motivate them for learning. It would help in the presentation of the text latter.
3. It takes time to read and understand a textbook. In the same way, modern methods of teaching too require much time. So, students need to save time. This method successfully saves on time. A difficult subject can be presented using his method in a brief time. Therefore, this method can be used primarily to save on time.
4. The lecture method can be used to explain technical terminology, comprehension, concept, principles and laws, which can be possible only by this method. Economics is replete with a lot of technical terms all through, which have to be explained in simple words. therefore, the lecture method should be used for this purpose.
5. It is quite unpsychological to tell student 'to write an article on what you have studied today'. In fact, whatever home assignment is given, a brief lecture on its utility, importance, relation with learning and how to do it, etc. should be given.

6. Sometimes, the text given in textbooks is quite brief, insufficient or incorrect, so it becomes imperative for the teacher to give some additional matter. This can be done using the lecture method.

Merits of Lecture Method

Following are the merits of the lecture method :

1. The lecture method cultivates logic in students. When a lecturer argues with students, they analyse and explain the concepts, and remove their doubts. Thus, their logic is developed by this method.
2. The foremost task of the teaching work is to motivate students. The lecture method plays a role in this. Explaining economics topics—historical events, achievements of great people, different movements, geographical facts and changes, etc.—helps to motivate students.
3. Contact between teacher and pupil is necessary in order to make teaching effective. The lecture method achieves this contact easily. The speech has unique power of establishing contact. When the teacher starts to speak before the students, his fluency and lowering or raising of pitch and body movements coupled with effective language influence the students immediately. The contact with students is easily established in such a situation.
4. The ear is the sense of hearing, and the skill of listening should be developed during school life. The lecture method plays an important role in this direction. It has been often seen that concentration goes down after some time of study, but if the lecture is interesting and meaningful, then the audience can be made to hook on for a longer time. It means to say that the lecture method is helpful in fixing attention for a longer duration and it is easy to acquire learning when mind is attentive. So, this method develops listening skill in students.
5. If teaching in economics is carried out by the use of only textbooks, then the students will face problems in understanding concepts. If this problem is not solved, the students tend to learn by rote and several misconceptions are set in their mind. The lecture method is an important method

teacher also presents problems before them from time to time.

Limitations or Disadvantages of Lecture Method

The above merits of the lecture method should not make you feel that it is devoid of any demerits. Some of its demerits are as follows:

1. This method makes the students inactive listeners. Due to their inactiveness or passiveness, this method becomes unnatural and unpsychological.
2. The lecture method lays undue stress on theoretical knowledge, and no importance is given to practical aspect of knowledge. This method gives no place to 'activity' and neglects learning by doing fully.
3. It becomes difficult for most teachers to limit their lecture within the specified limits of the lesson. They may deviate from the actual topic because of the feeling of self-demonstration or lack of preparation. They may indulge in talking irrelevant things in order to pass time. It becomes difficult for students to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant data in their otherwise attractive lecture. It harms more than it benefits.
4. Generally the students are satisfied with the amount of knowledge imparted to them through this method. It is similar to eating cooked things, and they do not make efforts for acquiring knowledge. So this method discourages self-effort.
5. All teachers are not proficient in the art of lecturing. Using the lecture method is a tough task and it cannot be done by every teacher. It is an art and requires learning and practice in optimum measure, which is not a cup of tea for all students. Even those teachers who have mastered this art, it is an extremely difficult task to prepare effective, tasteful, meaningful, purposeful and organized lecture due to the efforts it requires. As a result, this method becomes tasteless and dry.
6. The attention span of students cannot bear with a lecture of the duration of 40-45 minutes attentively.
7. It is one thing to undertake actual teaching, and another to finish the course. The lecture method facilitates to finish the course quickly, but it does not help in actual teaching.

- Methods of Teaching
8. This method does not work well in small classes; it can be used only in higher classes.
 9. It makes the process of teaching very boring.

Suggestions for Use of Lecture Method

The following points should be borne in mind by a teacher while using this method in economics teaching :

1. A synopsis should be prepared before giving a lecture. it helps a teacher to keep the main points in view.
2. The content should be planned before a lecture. If this is not done, a lecture cannot succeed. A teacher should possess exhaustive knowledge of his subject too. He should be able to answer all queries raised by students.
3. As far as possible, only ablest teachers should be appointed. A teacher ought to be a good lecturer. A teacher should be such who can change his pronunciation, expressions and explanation keeping with the nature of the content.
4. A special note should be made of the language. It should not be so refined that students may fail to understand it, nor should it be so fluent and figurative that it may suppress the main points of the text.
5. A lecture should be given in form of conversation.
6. This method should specifically be used for introduction of a topic.
7. While giving a lecture, a teacher should keep a note of students' expressions which tells him how far students have been able to follow him.
8. A lecture should be given in a quiet and slow manner, and pause should be given from time to time.
9. A teacher should pay special attention to his language, style, pronunciation and expressions.
10. Relevant questions should be asked in between, it would make students conscious and careful listeners.
11. A lecture should not be serious or uninteresting.
12. Suitable examples, illustrations and anecdote etc. should be used from time to time.
13. The lecture method should include testing of students.