

THE ROLE OF FEEDBACK IN EDUCATION

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Annotation: Feedback plays an important role in both teaching and learning processes because of several reasons. In this article the importance of feedback in education is widely presented. It also analyzes some possible benefits of feedback and tips to provide effective feedback.

Key words: feedback, education, teacher, learner, peers, learning process, misunderstanding, effective feedback.

It is a well-known fact that, feedback is considered to be the most important tools for both teaching and learning techniques that shows an immediate positive impact on learning and teaching procedures. It helps students to understand their weak points and strengths, as well as to acquire knowledge by following a clear guidance on how to improve learning process. Moreover, feedback can assist students to enhance their self-confidence and passion to study more effectively. This article is aimed at discussing the role of feedback in education, and the advantages of it during the learning process and tips how to produce effective feedback. As I think, it would be much easier to conduct a lesson by giving relevant feedback to students.

There is a quote which I found relevant meaningful in terms of this topic by Grant Wiggins as “Learners need endless feedback more than they need endless teaching”. Now, we will try to reach an underlying meaning of this by finding out the role of feedback in education. Firstly, effective and relevant feedback assists the learners to reflect on their learning and the learning strategies so they can make adjustments to make better progress at their learning stages. Effective feedback is henceforth designed to determine a learner’s level of understanding which varies to each individual and the rate of skill development so that they can plan for the next steps towards achieving their targeted learning goals. Secondly, the importance of constructive feedback allows for many positive opportunities. Feedback in education provides a foundation for positive student and teacher relationship. When teachers and students share effective feedback, they build a sense of trust amongst each other, they build the trust to tell each other when they see points of improvement. Another benefit for feedback in a classroom environment is that it affords an opportunity for clarification of what is expected. When provided with feedback, student performance and achievement increases as they are able to understand the expectations or targets that need to be met. It also helps students identify their strengths and weaknesses in various content domains. Furthermore, providing relevant feedback lets students know the flow of their learning process, I mean, they can understand their weak points and work on them in order to achieve actual goal. At this point, feedback can be called as additional remarks. For example, it is interesting that still student choose to study traditionally, , even though in this era of information technology, every online subject is accessible for all students. The answer can be as simple as: they try to find the right teacher, so that they can receive relevant feedback to overcome any confusion about the subject. On the other hand, student should also take the responsibility of giving feedback to their teachers on the teaching process. It is so beneficial to understand their mistakes about methodology and to invent creative methods during the class. Especially in the times of online learning, feedback in education is essential as we are teaching and learning on through a blank screen. There are many instances where students do not respond well to what the teacher is teaching in the online course. Here, they ought to give constructive feedback to their teachers of that particular subject so that they can work on their teaching techniques and students can improve their understanding of it.

There are some aspects which should be taken into account while providing a feedback. I will try to mention a few of them in the following passages. Initially, feedback should be timely. It needs to be given while there is still time for the learners to act on it and to monitor and adjust their learning. It can be ‘in-the-moment’ in the case of classroom dialogue and discussion. The practitioner will receive feedback from the way learners answer questions and the questions asked by them. To effectively gather evidence from questioning about who does and who does not understand it may be necessary to vary the way, questions are

asked in the classroom to ensure all learners can participate and provide evidence of their level of understanding. This evidence should indicate whether it is necessary to re-teach, provide more varied discussion and practice, use peer teaching or move the learners forward. Moreover, feedback should be clear and teachers ought to provide as soon as possible after the completion of the assignment. And, it should be provided to in an accurate language which is accessible to the student. Effective feedback provides specific guidance on how to improve learning outcomes and it enables the learner to think about the learning involved in the task and not just the activity of completing the task. Another important aspect is that feedback should not all about the discussion of mistake, teachers should always try to motivate their students and keep them passionate about learning. And, it should not be too informative, teachers should focus on helping them to understand the assessment of their learning students and encourage learners to ask questions about their feedback to establish if students understand what is being discussed. And they should suggest their pieces of advice about future steps for improvement.

The impact of feedback on future practice and the development of students' learning were highlighted by Eraut : When students enter higher education . . . the type of feedback they then receive, intentionally or unintentionally, will play an important part in shaping their learning futures. Hence we need to know much more about how their learning, indeed their very sense of professional identity, is shaped by the nature of the feedback they receive. We need more feedback on feedback. As Eraut stated after passing on higher education, more responsibility will be on the shoulder of the students themselves, all teachers should do in this period to provide them with relevant feedback.

Allowing peer dialogue in understanding the feedback: An approach of increasing the value and effectiveness of feedback and the likelihood that the information provided is understood by students is to conceptualize feedback more as dialogue rather than as information transmission . It is also fruitful to organize peer-to-peer feedbacks during the lessons. This can help to create a friendly atmosphere and to improve the team-working skills of students.

To sum up, feedback is one of the key aspects of conducting high-quality classes. It helps students and teachers to understand their mistake and to overcome confusions relating to subjects, they are learning. I feel that, before starting their pedagogical reputation, every teacher should learn tips how to give relevant feedbacks.

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