

Innovative Methods of Teaching Urdu Language in Digital Era

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Abstract

Teaching is one of the challenging professions in the era of advanced technology. It is not a cup of tea to everyone. Especially to untrained teachers though they are working in the field of teaching. Adaption of suitable method is also one of the challenges in the profession. It is called as a noble profession. According to a model teacher Sri Sarve Pally Radha Krishnan, “Teacher is the person before whom the entire universe bows”. In order to teach effectively, language is one of the important tool for students for all disciplines. Teaching of Urdu is a challenging task in the era of technological advancement. Urdu is an attractive and sweet language for most of the speakers. Difference innovative methods can be used for creating interest among the teachers and learners such as lecture method, story telling method, interactive method, discussion method, problem solving method. Krashen (1982: 125) discusses several approaches or what he calls “the most widely used methods” to language teaching, with the questions – on each approach to classroom teaching: what extent it satisfies the requirements for optimal input”, and “what extent it puts learning in its proper place”. These approaches have positively advanced the course of language teaching and learning so much so that there is the need to have more insight on the approaches and what contribution they can still make to our contemporary language study. The present paper focuses and discusses on various innovative methods of teaching Urdu language with reference to digital advancements.

Keywords: Interactive Approach, Story Telling Method, Innovative Methods, Urdu Language Teaching

Introduction

Teaching is one of the challenging professions in the era of advanced technology. It is not a cup of tea to everyone. Especially to untrained teachers though they are working in the field of teaching. Adaption of suitable method is also one of the challenges in the profession. It is called as a noble profession. According to a model teacher and former president of India Sri Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, “Teacher is the person before whom the entire universe bows”. He believed that “Teachers should be the best minds in the country”. In order to teach effectively, language is one of the important tool for students for all disciplines. Teaching of Urdu is a challenging task in the era of technological advancement. technology used an aid or support may significantly improve student engagement and achievement. (Thompson et. al., 2016). The technology has had a positive impact on the learning of Urdu Vocabulary by students with Intellectual Disability. The findings of the study suggested

that learning the Urdu language through game-based softwares/programmes/utilities can improve students' learning in the classroom. Teachers can use mobile phone as a learning tool to enhance their learning goals. Gul Nida et. al., (2021) Urdu is an attractive and sweet language for most of the speakers. Different innovative methods can be used for creating interest among the teachers and learners such as lecture method, questioning method, storytelling method, interactive method, discussion method, and problem solving method and so on. Krashen (1982:125) discusses several approaches or what he calls "the most widely used methods" to language teaching, with the questions – on each approach to classroom teaching: what extent it satisfies the requirements for optimal input", and "what extent it puts learning in its proper place". These approaches have positively advanced the course of language teaching and learning so much so that there is the need to have more insight on the approaches and what contribution they can still make to our contemporary language study.

The present paper focuses and discusses on various innovative methods of teaching Urdu language with reference to digital advancements.

Need and significance of Urdu Language Teaching

The teaching of Urdu in India holds significant cultural, linguistic, and historical importance for several reasons:

Cultural Heritage

Urdu has deep roots in Indian culture and history, especially during the Mughal era. It has been a language of literature, poetry, and cultural expression, contributing to the rich tapestry of Indian heritage.

Literary and Artistic Significance

Many classic works of literature, poetry, and art in India are in Urdu. Teaching the language provides access to this wealth of literary and artistic heritage, fostering an appreciation for diverse forms of creative expression.

Unity in Diversity

India is a linguistically diverse country with several languages spoken across different regions. Urdu, with its roots in both Persian and Indian languages, serves as a bridge between different linguistic and cultural communities, promoting unity in diversity.

Secular Tradition

Urdu has historically been a language that transcends religious and cultural boundaries. Teaching Urdu reinforces India's secular tradition, showcasing the inclusivity and shared cultural history of the country.

Access to Literature and Media

Many significant works in literature, journalism, and media are produced in Urdu. Learning the language enables individuals to access a broader range of written and audio-visual content, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of various topics.

Cross-Border Communication

Urdu is spoken and understood in neighboring countries, including Pakistan. Proficiency in Urdu facilitates cross-border communication, trade, and cultural exchange.

Employment Opportunities

Proficiency in Urdu can open up job opportunities in fields such as journalism, translation, academia, and cultural diplomacy. It enhances linguistic skills, making individuals more versatile in a diverse job market.

Preservation of Cultural Identity

Teaching Urdu is integral to preserving the cultural identity of communities that use the language. It ensures that future generations have a connection to their linguistic and cultural roots.

In summary, teaching Urdu in India is not only about language education but also about celebrating cultural diversity, fostering unity, and preserving a rich heritage that has contributed significantly to the tapestry of Indian civilization.

Innovative Methods of Teaching Urdu Language

There are numerous innovative methods of teaching of Urdu Language. Teacher can use any method as per the suitability and convenience of the classroom environment with integration of advanced technologies. Some of them are mentioned below:

Self-Evaluation Method

This method can be adopted by the teachers in order to evaluate theory or project reports. It is an opportunity of self-evaluation of his/her own written scripts can be given by the teacher so that the learner/student be able to judge and evaluate the performance. This method not only help students to analyze or evaluate the performance but also reduces the stress or work of the teachers. In this method opportunity of awarding marks also should be given to the students so that the student award his/her own marks based on his performance. Teacher can verify the marks awarded by the students and if the marks are genuine, the student should be appreciated by the teacher and in case of poor award of marks, the marks may be revised by the teacher with the reasons of fake marks taken by the student. So, this method will be helpful both student and teachers in order to avoid biasness and maintain transparency by the teacher.

Translation Method

Mother tongue plays important role in this method. Urdu language can be taught with the support of mother's language. Students learn quickly with the help of mother's language. For example if you want to teach Urdu to the student who is aware of Malayalam or Telugu Language and other language, he can be taught with the language and he will learn the language quickly. Without Mother's language, learning Urdu language is impossible and so difficult.

Lecture Method

This method is useful in higher levels but it is difficult at primary or elementary level. It is an old method and consider it as a boring method. Students feel sleepy in this method. However, it has many advantages and less disadvantages.

Inductive and Deductive Method

Grammar can be taught with these methods so that they can learn grammar easily without any force by the teacher. Known to Unknown principle is used by the teacher for teaching grammar. These methods are difficult to learn but it will be made easier with its principles of learning Urdu language.

Direct Method

In this method Urdu can be taught in Urdu language only. This direct method helps students to learn Urdu directly with the language. Support of other language is prohibited in this method. This method is a natural method. It is very effective. Words, sentences and grammar are taught in this method. Learners will be able to get mastery in reading, writing of the Urdu Language. One of the demerits of the method is student are unable to take support of the Urdu Language.

Use of Technologies for Effective Teaching of Urdu Language

Today's society is knowledge based society. The countries would be better state only if they would be able to get ICT leverage at greater extent. Recent Policy on Education 2020 on ICT for school education has very significant forward mandate to transform society into knowledge society by meaningful induction of ICT in Education. Because our millions of tiny minds are in the process of becoming citizen and potential Nation builder whose fate is solely shaped in our classrooms. A teacher is an agent of change and need be equipped with essential skills of ICT. Kadir Abdul (2017). In the digital era, there are several new methods of teaching the Urdu language that take advantage of technology and online resources. Here are some of the methods that have become popular:

Online Language Courses

Many platforms and websites offer online Urdu language courses. These courses often include interactive lessons, multimedia resources, and opportunities for practice and feedback. Students can learn at their own pace and access the materials from anywhere with an internet connection.

Language Learning Apps

Mobile apps have become a popular way to learn languages, including Urdu. Apps like Duolingo, Rosetta stone, and Memrise provide gamified lessons, vocabulary practice, and interactive exercises to help learners improve their Urdu skills. These apps often use spaced repetition algorithms to reinforce learning and offer a convenient and accessible way to practice the language.

Virtual Classrooms

With the advancement of video conferencing tools, virtual classrooms have become an effective method for teaching Urdu. Teachers can conduct live interactive sessions with students from anywhere in the world. These virtual classrooms often include features such as screen sharing, chat functions, and collaborative whiteboards, enabling teachers to deliver lessons and engage students in real-time.

Online Language Exchange

Language exchange platforms connect learners with native Urdu speakers for language practice. Through video calls or messaging, learners can engage in conversations with native speakers, improving their speaking and listening skills. This method provides an opportunity for authentic language practice and cultural exchange.

Multimedia Resources

The digital era has made multimedia resources readily available for learning Urdu. Online videos, podcasts, and audio lessons offer immersive experiences and help learners improve their pronunciation, listening comprehension, and vocabulary. These resources can be accessed anytime and anywhere, providing flexibility for self-paced learning.

Social Media and Online Communities

Social media platforms and online communities provide opportunities for learners to connect with other Urdu learners and native speakers. Language learning groups, forums, and online language exchange communities allow learners to ask questions, share resources, and practice their Urdu skills through written communication.

Mobile Apps

Language learning apps specifically designed for Urdu, accessible on smartphones, provide a convenient and interactive way for learners to practice vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar.

Virtual Classes and Tutors

Engage in virtual classrooms or one-on-one sessions with Urdu language tutors through video conferencing tools. This allows personalized learning and real-time interaction.

Multimedia Resources

Leverage multimedia resources such as podcasts, YouTube channels, and audiobooks to expose learners to authentic Urdu conversations, improve listening skills, and enhance overall language proficiency.

Interactive Websites

Explore websites that offer interactive content, quizzes, and games to make learning Urdu engaging and enjoyable. Interactive platforms often cater to different learning styles.

Social Media Groups and Forums

Join Urdu language learning communities on platforms like Facebook or Reddit to connect with fellow learners, ask questions, and practice language skills.

E-books and E-resources

Access digital textbooks, e-books, and online resources that cover Urdu grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances. These materials are often easily download able and portable.

Language Exchange Platforms

Participate in language exchange programs or platforms where learners can connect with native Urdu speakers interested in learning another language. This facilitates practical language practice.

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

Explore emerging technologies like AR and VR to create immersive language learning experiences, allowing learners to virtually interact with Urdu-speaking environments and scenarios.

Gamification

Incorporate gamified elements into language learning, such as quizzes, challenges, and rewards, to make the process more enjoyable and motivating.

Youtube Channel

Students improve their language through Youtube Channels. Teacher and students can record the content and upload on the Youtube Channel and encourage them to learn during their leisure time and also during the classroom.

Google Classroom

Teacher can create Google Classroom through Gmail ID and add all the students. In this classroom teacher not only share the content and assignments but also

Concluding Remarks

It's worth noting that while these new methods of teaching Urdu in the digital era offer several advantages, they should ideally be supplemented with opportunities for real-life practice, such as interacting with native speakers, immersing oneself in Urdu-speaking environments, and engaging with authentic Urdu materials. Combining traditional methods with these digital approaches can create a comprehensive and effective Urdu language learning experience in the digital age.

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