Continuous Professional Development; A Hefty Apparatus for Teaching

English for Competitive Examinations

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Abstract

To call a spade a spade, English language has become the lingua franca and it is called the global language as well. English has a gargantuan impact in every nook and cranny. In the field of competitive examinations also, English as a subject has a colossal importance. To talk turkey, to get success in different types of competitive examinations, one of the essential eligibility criteria’s is to have a sound knowledge and proficiency in English writing, speaking, reading and listening, which are the four basic skills of English language as well. Continuous professional development is extremely important for the pedagogues to teach English for competitive examinations. Technology as a tool of teaching English for competitive examinations is immensely significant. Accurate usages of various technological tools in the field of education are the integral part of continuous professional development. This paper enucleates the fecund usages and amenities of smart classroom, e-learning, different types of apps and curriculum development to teach English for competitive examinations. Continuous professional development is one of the hefty apparatuses, through which the pedagogues can lift the entire education system at the acme of prevalence. Continuous professional development as an important procedure hit the bull’s eye to teach English for competitive examinations. Through Continuous Professional Development, pedagogues can develop their basic skills, teaching skills, academic qualities, knowledge. Organizing wads of symposiums and participating in plethora of seminars, faculty development programs, webinars and workshops on the importance of English in different types of competitive examinations are also the part and parcel of Continuous professional development.

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English language has a humongous importance round the nook and corner. In the field of competitive examinations also, English as a subject is extremely important. English as a language has always been changing substantially in grammatical forms and vocabulary. Continuous professional development is highly aspired to teach English language and its present forms of etymology, vocabulary to a tee for the aspirants of competitive examinations. There are four basic skills of English language; which are listening, speaking, reading and writing (LSRW). In the competitive examinations, these four basic skills are tested, along with these four basic skills; some other skills like etymological conception, knowledge of vocabulary are also tested. To help the learners to come out with flying colours in the competitive examinations, continuous professional development as a procedure of the teaching-learning model is paramount. At the present moment, the notion of continuous professional development is emerging in the field of edification for the development of the professional performances, which would definitely help the pedagogues for improving their multifarious professional competencies as well. The methods of teaching English for competitive examinations should follow the procedures of continuous professional development and its important tools. To make the grade in this tech-savvy world, the usages of technology in the field of education or teaching-learning scenario have kick started almost many years abaft. Technology and its apparatuses have been playing a titanic role in the field of education, which have umpteen amenities in the teaching-learning scenario. Accurate usages of technology provide wads of options, it makes the teaching-learning scenario much more interesting and it has a magnanimous capability to allure the learners to learn English language for competitive examinations.
The usages of smart classroom and the impacts of e-learning to teach English for the students of competitive examinations are highly emphasizing indeed. The usages of smart classroom to teach English for competitive examinations is extremely significant, one of the most important tools of smart classroom is the overhead projector, it helps the pedagogues to provide plenty of important materials in a scurry, which indeed saves the time. With the help of overhead projector and Laptop, in one single class important images, diagrams, informations related to the important topics according to the syllabi are projected on the screen in a flash, which is extremely important to get plethoras of important information in a short time. The pedagogues can get some extra time also to enucleate the learners regarding the given informations on that class. Smart board is another important tool in a smart classroom to teach English for competitive examinations, it makes the class much more attractive and it can also be one of the appropriate substitutes of traditional chalk board or marker board for large classrooms with full of students. Pedagogues can do yeoman’s service by helping the learners to learn English language with perfection and developing their basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing (LSRW) of English language through the accurate usages of smart classroom because there is an impact of audio-visual learning in the classroom. Audio-visual learning with the help of the pedagogues is awfully adjuvant for learning and understanding different things without being bored. Proper usages of power point presentations, different types of templates improve the thinking abilities of the learners, which is extremely important to learn English language and its proper applications. To teach English literature for academic competitive examinations, sometimes the pedagogues can use videodiscs, digital versatile disc to make their students understand a lesson. They can show their students each and every part of a particular magnum opus through its audio-visual version and expounds them in order to clear the conceptions in the classroom as well. The learners can also perform different roles after watching the audio-visual version of a particular chef d’oeuvre as instructed by
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their pedagogues, they even can clarify their doubts regarding their lessons in the classroom. In different types of competitive examinations, writing skill is tested along with the other skills as one of important skills, in these cases the pedagogues should help their students to develop their writing skill which would assist the students to come out victorious in the descriptive writing examinations as well. With the proper usages of smart classroom and its aids like power point presentations, projectors, the pedagogues can provide informations and enucleate them for their students. The pedagogues can show their students wads of writing styles, ornamentations, structures of a proper writing with the help of different tools of smart classroom. Pedagogues can give tasks also to their students and test their writing skill with the tools of smart classroom as well. Pedagogues can teach their students grammar or etymology through some grammar games with the proper usages of the tools of smart classroom, which would definitely help the learners or aspirants to learn the basic grammar accurately without being bored.

E-learning or electronic learning is another titanic medium to teach English for competitive examinations. Implementing e-learning for teaching English for competitive examinations is an integral part of continuous professional development. With the help of e-learning, pedagogues can give plethora of updated and significant informations to the learners according to the syllabi of English for different competitive examinations. E-learning is extremely important for the learners of rural areas; they can get umpteen materials through e-learning with the assistance of their pedagogues before one can say Jack Robinson according to their need. There are galore of apps by which e-learning can be done. The pedagogues can use these apps as a medium or platform to teach and make their student proficient in English for different types of competitive examinations. With the accurate usages of different apps like ‘Whatsapp’, ‘Face book’, ‘Telegram’, ‘Google meet’, ‘Microsoft Teams’, ‘Zoom’, ‘Webinar Jam’, the pedagogues can take classes and provide materials, important informations to the
students. Students can also clear their queries, doubts regarding the lessons. E-learning and its tools are extremely important for the learners of distance edification as well. E-mail is one of the staple mediums of e-learning, through which pedagogues can send their students sundry of tasks, study materials in the blink of an eye. E-mail can also be used for the purpose of testing and evaluation as well. Students can send their completed assignments to their pedagogues for checking through Email also. E-learning helps the aspirants also to get umpteen informations according to their needs. To teach English for competitive examinations, the applications of e-learning and its tools are one of significant parts of continuous professional development, which is extremely needed. Learners of 21st century are also concerned about learning from e-books, e-libraries, you tube lessons, blogs, podcasts, wikis, multimedia, electronic text corpora, along with the lessons and lectures of traditional chalk-talk classroom. The pedagogues should apply these apps and the tools of e-learning to teach their students English for competitive examinations. Accurate usages of e-learning for teaching English for competitive examinations makes the entire teaching-learning model learner centered, where the roles of the pedagogues are extremely important but learners can also share their views and quarries, doubts to the pedagogues directly even individually sometimes. Pedagogues can organize different types of seminars, webinars, conferences on various topics of English language and literature according to the syllabi of multifarious competitive examinations to expound different strategies for their students, which would help their students to get success in English in different competitive examinations.
Teaching English language through various apps has become one of the significant procedures of Continuous professional development, where the pedagogues can use plenty of apps to teach English to their students. Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) along with Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) are the two paramount tools to teach English accurately, pedagogues of twenty-first century can use these tools of technology to teach English for their students, which would definitely help the learners to improve their basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and vocabulary, grammatical conceptions as well. Accurate usages of different types of apps through mobile, tablet, computer and laptop have made the system of teaching and learning flexible and learner centered. App based language teaching or learning is definitely attractive to the learners and pedagogues as well. In this world of technology, learners are using different types of electrical gadgets, with the help of these gadgets and internet connections pedagogues can also teach their students English. There are multifarious apps which are free to access; at the same time there are some apps which cannot be used without payment, learning English with the help of these apps is interesting and attractive also to the learners or students. To bear the palm in English in different types of competitive examinations, students need to be strong in the basic parts of English language along with vocabulary development and their proper applications, clear conceptions of traditional and modern etymology. There are some apps through which students can improve their basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing with the help of their pedagogues. With the proper usages of those apps, learners can hone their vocabulary and learn the basic conceptions of grammar through the guidance of their pedagogues. Those apps are ‘Duolingo’, ‘Starfall ABCs’, ‘Hello English’, ‘ELSA’, ‘Rosetta stone’, ‘English Grammar Test’, ‘Learn English Grammar’, ‘Cake’, ‘learn to speak English’, ‘FluentU’ and many more. Pedagogues can use these modern apps to teach English for competitive examinations, because these apps as the tools of teaching and learning English are portable and ductile.
too. These apps would definitely help the learners for their personalized learning and self-assessment also, which are very important for them as well. Flipped classroom is another important medium of e-learning, pedagogues can take classes through this medium also. To be above board, the learners those who want to learn English through distance educational system, the concept of flipped classroom is highly beneficial for them as well. To teach English for competitive examinations, pedagogues can use flipped classroom and its tools like screen casting, audio recording, voice over presentations and different types of videos which are extremely essential and effective for the learners.

Curriculum development is one of the vital and mandatory procedures of continuous professional development to teach English for different types of competitive examinations. Everything has been changing in this world, in teaching-learning scenario also, things have been changing gradually. Technological innovations have a gargantuan impact in the field of edification; these innovations of technology play an important role to teach English for competitive examinations as well. Along with the traditional procedures of teaching and learning, methods of teaching English are also changing and pedagogues have been using different technological tools, apps to teach English for their students, the curriculum is also developing day by day, which is indeed an integral part of Continuous Professional Development. Teaching English for the students of competitive examinations requires a proper and well developed curriculum. A well developed curriculum consists of some fundamental principles like ‘selection and grading’, ‘presentation and practice’, ‘contextualization’. Developing the basic skills like Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing of English language are extremely important to be successful in the competitive examinations. Pedagogues can use different teaching methods like the ‘Audio-lingual method’, ‘Direct method’, ‘Community language learning’, ‘Communicative language teaching’, ‘Desuggestopedia’, ‘Grammar-translation method’, ‘Content based, task-based, and
participatory approaches’ and technological tools to teach English for different types of competitive examinations. To develop the extensive and intensive listening skills of the students Pedagogues can choose material from the course books like pre-recorded listening texts, they can also use CDs and DVDS for authentic listening as well. Pedagogues can also find material from the real world for developing the listening skills of their students. In terms of developing Speaking skills, pedagogues can use different types of audio-visual and audio-lingual techniques to make their students proficient in terms of speaking. Controlled oral work has been playing an auspicious role to develop speaking skill; through this technique pedagogues would help their students to practice dialogue, which is one of the important and versatile techniques for practicing lexical, etymological and phonological things of English language. Along with these techniques, pedagogues can take the conversation class to develop the speaking skills of their students. The other techniques of developing speaking skill are guided oral work and helping the students for practicing role-play etc. Pronunciation is another important part of speaking skill. Teaching Pronunciation helps the learners to recognize and understand the flow of the speech along with the fluency and production of the spoken language. Pronunciation teaching also helps the learners to produce accurate English speech which should be intelligible in the places where they will use it. To secure intelligibility, pedagogues have to select allophonic variations and the learners also have to concentrate on the significant phonemic contrasts with the help of their pedagogues.
Pedagogues should help their students by providing them proper models of pronunciation in audio-visual format, which is indeed a part of a developed curriculum to teach English for different types of competitive examinations. To develop reading skill, the pedagogues can teach their pupils how to understand the structural complexity of a text. Along with this, the pedagogues can help their students to increase their depth of understanding, which would help the learners to understand the sense within a text and the lexical, logical, rhetorical and etymological relationship within a text. Pedagogues can help their students to understand the relationship in between a text and its author and reader. Writing skill is one of the most important skills in terms of competitive examinations. To develop writing skill, there are myriads of aspects which need to be considered, they are like the mechanical problems with the script of English, remonstrances of relating the writing style to the demands of a particular situation, lack of accuracy of lexis and etymology and challenges in expressing what needs to said etc. Pedagogues can organize proper writing programme which should have some goals, a fundamental methodology is highly needed for the written works. These techniques of teaching would ensure continuous professional development to teach English for competitive examinations and the development of curriculum too.

Proper assessment through examinations completes the circle of an ideal teaching-learning model. Taking examinations along with justified assessment and including different types of tests into the curriculum are the parts of Continuous professional development to teach English for different types of competitive or public examinations. Taking examinations or tests with proper evaluation or assessment help the learners to check the depth of their wisdom. These procedures are also helpful for the pedagogues to identify the errors of their students. Pedagogues can help their students by correcting their mistakes or errors.
Including different types of tests in the curriculum develops the entire testing and evaluation procedure indeed. Some of the important tests for assessing and evaluating the students are ‘subjective test’, ‘objective test’, ‘cloze test’ and ‘testing communication’; along with these tests some kinds of assessment tests are also important. Different terms like ‘aptitude’, ‘proficiency’, ‘achievement’ and ‘diagnostic’ are the different types of assessments or tests which would help the entire procedure of examination and assessment to be accurate. To talk turkey, all these procedures of assessment and examination would help the curriculum to develop. Including these procedures of assessment into the curriculum and its successful implementation for teaching English for competitive examinations are the part of continuous professional development as well. Pedagogues should have to look after the levels of their students; as a guide or a mentor, pedagogues must have to know whether their students are beginner or elementary, intermediate, pre-intermediate, upper-intermediate or advanced level learners. Pedagogues can also ask their students for the feedback in different times like at the fag end of an activity, at the end of a lesson, at the end of the entire class or after submitting their homework’s. The feedback of the learners are extremely important for the entire teaching-learning scenario, it would also help the procedure of continuous professional development.

Teaching English for the students of competitive examinations through Smart classroom, e-learning or electronic learning, flipped classroom, different types of apps and technological tools are the integral part of continuous professional development. Along with these technological apparatuses, traditional chalk-talk classroom lectures with a splendidferous presentation of flashcards, images, drawings and realia are extremely important to teach English for competitive examinations.
Accurate usages of technological tools and different techniques of teaching, curriculum development with the implementation of an authentic process of assessment and evaluation through different types of tests are highly needed for continuous professional development, which would definitely help the students to carry the day in English in various competitive examinations.

Bibliography


