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Skills of Critical Thinking

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Abstract

Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally about what to do and what to believe. Critical thinkers have ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking and develop the understanding with logical connection between ideas. The critical thinkers vigorously question ideas and assumptions rather than accepting them at face value. In fact, they would always seek to determine, whether the ideas, arguments and findings represent the entire picture. The critical thinkers identify, analyze and solve problem systematically rather than by intuition or instinct. Thus it is necessary to teach the student teachers about critical thinking for send next generation that how to inculcate the new ideas and passive informations.

Key Words: Reflection, Critical, Thinking, Instincts, Ideas and Assumptions.

Introduction

Micheal Scriven & Richard Paul given about critical thinking in organized conference 1987 that "Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of the activity and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing and/or evaluating information gathered from or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, communication as a guide to belief and action. In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter division, clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth breadth and fairness."

Analyse above statement the first part of critical thinking is a disciplined process of activity. It is going in systematically in the order of determine objectives content and can found it skillfully based on conceptualization of facts. In critical thinking student teacher develop skill for analysis and synthesis way on their topics and evaluating norm/criteria also. Developing the critical thinking they develop to how collect the accurate information from generated by observation and experiences. Thus it is related with subject matters

and its clarity, accuracy, relevancy and newness with alround fairness.

According to Paul, "Critical thinking is" Disciplined, self directed thinking which exemplifies the perfection of thinking appropriate to a particular mode or domain of thinking.

Mc. Pech defines critical thinking as "The process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating information to reach an answer or conclusion."

Analyze the above definitions found that disciplined, self direction, skill, reflection will necessary part of critical thinking. Find the conclusion or objectives student teacher will develop above attributes. Lastly we can say 'Critical thinking is made of thinking about any subject, content or problems, in which student teacher improve quality by skillfully taking charges the structures inferred in thinking and impressing intellectual standards.

Linda Elder (2007) conceptualized critical thinking as "It is self guided, self disciplined, highest quality and attempt to consistency in rationale, reasoned and empathic. Critical thinker have no ego but they believe in intellectual tools

in the sense of justice, and confidence in reason. They always work towards improving their reasoning abilities and they do realize that at times they can fall prey to mistakes in reasoning, human irrationality, prejudices, biases, distortations, the uncritically accepted social rules and taboos, self interest and rested interest. They avoid simple thinking of complicated issues. They strive to appropriately consider the rights and needs of relevant others. Critical thinkers embody the Socratic principle-“The examined life is not worth living” because they realize that many unexamined live together result in an uncritical, unjust and dangerous world.

Analysis and Description

Researchers had tried to analyze on critical thinking about criterions, elements and components. Enlight on characteristics of critical thinkers as follows.

a) Criterions for Critical Thinking

After analysis following criterions are identified:-

- 1) Recognition about problem.
- 2) Problem solving (Understanding, Prioritisation, and Precedence)
- 3) Collection of information(Sufficiency, Accuracy, Purity)
- 4) Recognise unstated assumptions and values.
- 5) Comprehended the language (Accuracy, Clarity and Discernment)
- 6) Logical relationship.
- 7) Draw war rented conclusion.
- 8) Provide accurate judgement for generalization.

b) Elements of Critical Thinking

It seems to relevant elements whose are given by Edward M. Glosser:-

- 1) Attitude of being disposed, to consider in a thoughtful way the problems and subjects that come within the range of one's experiences.
- 2) Should have knowledge of the methods of logical inquiry and reasoning.

3) Use appropriate skills in applying these methods.

c) **Components:-** According to Henna Siddiqui two components are major in critical thinking:-

- 1) A set of information and belief generating and processing skills, and
- 2) Based on intellectual commitment, the habit of these skills to guide behaviour.

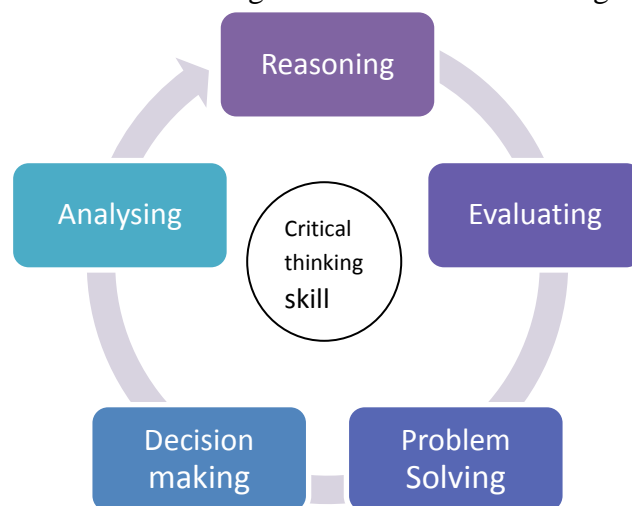
d) **Importance**

- 1) Domain of general thinking skill.
- 2) New knowledge economy.
- 3) Enhances language and presentation skill.
- 4) Promotes creativity.
- 5) Crucial for self reflection.

e) **Benefits**

- 1) To develop the ability to analyze the way of any problems.
- 2) Self directed and self disciplined.
- 3) To develop the problem solving ability.
- 4) Valuable skill for student teacher.
- 5) Teach a variety of skill.
- 6) Identified the facts and better understand.

f) **Proposed Model:-**Hena Siddiquie develop the following model for critical thinking.



g) **Collaboration:** For critical thinking increasing the following collaborations are necessary-

- 1) Educator to student teacher.
- 2) Mentor to student teacher.
- 3) Student teachers to students.

- 4) Student teachers to society.
- 5) Student teacher to other staff.

- 5) They communicate effectively.
- 6) Problem solving abilities.

Above collaborations do help in develop the skill for critical thinking by observation, interpretation, analysis, inference, evaluation, explanation, metacognition etc. Renaldo (2011) state about consideration as following-

- 1) Evidence through reality.
- 2) Specific context skills to isolate the problem from context.
- 3) Relevent criteria for making the judgement well.
- 4) Use methods and techniques applicable for forming the judgement.
- 5) Use applicable theoretical constructs for understanding the problem and question under consideration.

h) Steps of critical thinking: Steps of critical thinking as follows-

Clarity--Credibility--Breadth--accuracy--precision--Depth--Significance and fairness

i. Developing skill for critical thinking: Critical thinking includes a complex combination of various skills as follows.

- 1) Rationality: Thinking critically involves (Relying on reason, rather than emo require evidences, ignore unknown facts, follow the evidence, tell the end, finding the best explanation than being right.
- 2) Self Awareness
- 3) Honesty
- 4) Open Mindness.
- 5) Descipline.
- 6) Judgement.

Characteristics of Critical Thinkers: Following characteristics are defining-

- 1) Formulate the clarity and precisely of any problems.
- 2) Think open mindly.
- 3) Believe in relevant informations.
- 4) To develop the varities of Ideas.

Conclusions

Critical thinking skill developing is a challenge for educator in teacher Education department because student teachers are not come in the class properly. NCTE is trying out the set up of institutions about how will prepare the competent trainee, for it critical thinking skill should be developed with the help of five key assessment-1- Drawing inferences,2-recognising assumptions,3- Drawing conclusion,4-Interpreting data and, 5- Evaluating arguments.

The various researches in cognitive psychology has made the educators believe that schools should focus on teaching their students, critical thinking skills and cultivation of intellectual traits.

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