



In the 21st century, the world is moving at a rapid pace. Science, technology and innovation has provided opportunities which weren't available before. Population is on a rise, and schools have sprung up in all places possible. In such a scenario, children join schools to acquire knowledge in order to gain marks because more marks would mean better certificates and better certificates would ensure better jobs. And in this preplanned way of lifestyle, 'knowledge' gets lost somewhere. Such kind of education does not even prepare one for life. Rarely does anyone join a school to satisfy their hunger for more knowledge.

Majority of schools in India as well as other nations practice a teaching method of direct transmission in schools wherein teachers teach what is given in the book and the students are expected to learn what has been taught. The only way to score high is to memorize the content. Rote learning is something that all students resort to at the end of the day to get maximum marks.

The 21st century skills aim at spreading a special and vital kind of learning system wherein there is all round development of the student. The aim is to get the students (the future citizens of this planet) ready for the future as and when the need arises. The 21st century skills aims at enhancing the ways in which teaching is done so as to create a breed of 'future citizens' who are equipped with **the ability to think critically, creatively and apply them in real life situations.** The 21st century skills also intend to **prepare the students for their life.**

There is huge encouragement for the teaching to be multidisciplinary in nature. For example, if a student is being taught history, then the socio-political environment of the given time period can also be touched on. This way the students will develop a better understanding of the cause and effects of the historical happening or event. Going in depth into the topics in order to clear the 'how's' and 'why's' is also aimed at. This practice keeps students active and participative in school. Moreover, the school environment should be intellectually stimulating in a sense that the students should be active participants in debates centered on social and political issues and they should regard themselves as equal citizens of the nation and the globe. They should learn to voice their opinion in the most sophisticated of ways. They should be able to realize their responsibilities as a citizen of their nation and their planet. **The 21st century skills also aims at improving the communication skills of the students to an extent that they can effectively convey whatever they have learnt in proper language and are able to interact with people in team work.** The focus on communication skills, co-operation and interaction with the team members also aims at producing leadership qualities.

In order to shift the existing model of teaching and learning which promotes rote learning in most instances, there are various steps which need to be taken in order to ensure that students develop a certain level of **curiosity in their minds and start questioning the existing theories and ideas rather than accepting them and mugging it up without actually understanding** the base and branches of it. Students should crave for more things to learn and expand their understanding of how things work; they should look forward to deriving knowledge from their text books rather than marks and a degree.

In times like these when the world is going quite high with the support of technology and science, when computers are calculating faster than the human mind and robots are carrying out actions more efficiently than the human force, there is a pressing need to **make the students knowledgeable and fit for the 21st century world which is technology driven.**

These 21st century skills can be taught by making the theory for learning relevant to the students. If students understand the relevance and significance of what they are learning, then the outcomes will be better. As mentioned earlier, promoting multi-disciplinary understanding of the texts is also significant in achieving the



same. Teaching should also be done in a way that they are able to transfer their existing knowledge into a new and unfamiliar context. Focus should also be on making the students learn how to learn, understanding how they think for themselves and assessing themselves on their own. **They should be able to understand and figure out their weak and strong points and develop and improve on those.** The teachers should promote the students to raise questions in class, to look for problems rather than solutions in the existing systems and clarify any misunderstanding or error that arises. This kind of learning also requires **technology to be put to proper use to enhance the way in which students receive the intended information in the most appropriate, creative and interactive way.**

Along with these techniques, there is a pressing need of teachers who will teach in accordance with what the 21st century skills demands. **The teachers need to be taught how to take students minds out of their classrooms while making them understand concepts related to the outer world, they need to be taught how to teach creatively and instill a spirit of curiosity in young minds.** For the 21st century skills to spread like wildfire, we require teachers who are equipped with what is demanded out of them.

The 21st century skills aim at preparing students for work, citizenship and life. With these skills the intention is to find better ways of dealing with global, economic and civic challenges.