

Q) What is Micro-teaching. Give two definitions & write down the characteristics.

Ans) Microteaching is a technique aiming to prepare teacher candidates to the real classroom setting (Brent & Thomson, 1996). Microteaching can also be defined as a teaching technique especially used in teacher's pre-service education to train them systematically by allowing them to experiment main teacher behaviours. This method offers teachers opportunities for discovering & reflecting on both their own & other's teaching style & enable them to learn about new teaching techniques.

Since its inception in 1963, Micro teaching has become an established teacher training procedure in many universities & schools. This training procedure is geared towards simplification of the complexities of the regular teaching learning process. Class size, time, task & content are scaled down to provide optimal training environments. Here a lesson has been prepared for 5 to 10 minutes. The teacher trainee then has the opportunity to practice & evaluate his use of skills. Practice takes the form of a ten-minute microteaching session in which five to ten pupils are involved.

Definitions:

D.W. Allen (1966): "Micro-teaching is a scaled down teaching encounter in class size and class-time."

Allen & Eve (1968): "Micro-teaching is a system of controlled practise that makes it possible to concentrate on specified teaching behaviour & to practice in teaching under controlled conditions."

Characteristics of Micro-teaching:

1) ~~Training technique~~
Micro-teaching is a training technique and not a teaching technique.

2) New Innovation?

It is relatively a new technique or new experiment in the field of teacher education more specifically in student teaching.

3) Feedback device: It gives immediate knowledge of results or feedback to the trainees about their performances immediately after completing their lessons.

4) One skill at a time: The normal classroom teaching uses integrated skills & through this traditional approach of teaching all the skills can not be mastered.

5) Individualised devices: It is a highly individualised training device. Each trainee has to practice the different skills one by one until he gains mastery over all the skills & then use the integrated skills in a normal classroom.

6) Miniaturised teaching: It is a micro or miniaturised teaching in the sense that it reduces the complexities of real teaching by practising one skill at a time, reducing class size to 5 to 10 pupils, reducing duration of the lesson to 5 to 10 minutes, limiting the content in its scope & length.

7) Experts observation: Here, an expert is employed to observe & supervise the class situation.

8) Three tier method: The method used in micro teaching has three tier stage. They are

i) Pre-active

ii) Inter-active

iii) Post-active stage.

Conclusion: Micro-teaching is a technique or a device of imparting training to the inexperienced or experienced trainees for learning the art of teaching by practising specific teaching skills through scaled down teaching encounter, i.e., reducing the complexities of teaching in terms of size, time & content.

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