

# Newspaper as A Teaching Resource for Making the Classroom More Effective

Deepak Kumar Chaudhary

School Teacher (Class 9 and 10), ChoubeyJawahar High School, BhimKarup, AkhodiGola, Rohtas, Bihar, Pin - 802219.

Date of Submission: 11-02-2024

Date of Acceptance: 19-02-2024

## ABSTRACT:

Newspaper plays a vital role in teaching process when the teacher makes its use as a teaching resource in the classroom. The teacher uses it as a powerful tool for inculcating higher order of thinking among the students. Reading newspaper is interesting for a learner but when associated with teaching learning process creates a classroom more enjoyable, interesting and fruitful in the context of achievement and future progress. It provides students opportunities in enhancing their vocabulary, general knowledge, curiosity, scientific bent of mind inside and outside the classroom. This present article discusses various determinants of newspaper such as the concept, types, characteristics, merits and demerits of newspaper as well as strategies of using newspaper as a teaching resource in the classroom. It focuses on various strategies of newspaper as a teaching resource like discussing the contemporary incidents, inter-disciplinary learning, comprehension reading, expressing the vocabulary, debate and classroom discussion, exercise writing, historical outlook, developing map skill in geography, doing the project, meta-literacy, portfolio, providing a title, role playing, developing scientific literacy and establishing a relationship between self and the environment. This article will certainly help the teachers in using newspaper as a vital teaching resource for implementing in the classroom for making it challengeable and better productive.

**KEYWORDS:** Newspaper, teaching resource, classroom, effective.

urged to invent new technologies. The present century is the era of information and technology and its use makes everything easier and quicker in which the role of newspaper plays a lot in the teaching learning process. The teacher utilizes it as an important tool in teaching learning process in order to create the classroom more interesting, attractive, affordable, understandable and fruitful. Newspaper is considered to be a great enriching source of knowledge, teaching and learning. A newspaper comprises many interesting and current articles on news, features, sports, education, business and cultural sections, which in turn, provides variety of knowledge to the learners. The newspaper as a teaching resource enhances knowledge and various skills like listening, speaking, reading, writing as well as thinking. The teacher uses newspapers as a medium of inculcating higher order thinking skills. In the present day of technological revolution it is inadequate to depend on the formal way of teaching and textbook rather some ways of adopting new teaching resource as newspaper. It is the new platform to inject the knowledge to the students through newspaper making it more related, relevant and reliable which acts as a living textbook in the classroom. The teacher adopts various activities related to newspaper which enhances the skills among the students. It is a teaching resource of inculcating real and authentic knowledge. It is a medium of providing valuable opportunity in order to make a cohesive bridge between textbook and real life as a result it decreases the gap between textbook and real life.

## I. INTRODUCTION:

The newspaper is a basic and necessary for all in order to know the events happening in every moment in the world. The human beings are eager for thirst of knowledge in order to know the unknown, to explore the unexplored, to discover the undiscovered. This tendency of human beings

## II. MEANING OF NEWSPAPER:

A paper that is printed and distributed usually daily or weekly and that contains news, articles of opinion, features, and advertising and correspondence.

It is a low cost printed document published regularly containing news reports,

articles, photographs and advertisements on a large sheet of paper that can be folded together.

It is periodical written publication that covers a wide range like political situation, art, culture, sports, business, education, science and technology, philosophy, films, cartoons, weather forecasts, reviews, advertisements and economy with current knowledge.

Newspapers carry news, commentaries, analysis and reviews on current significant events and activities, personalities, feature articles on subjects of current interest, sports and games, general information on weather, local programs and activities, radio and television programs, stock market news, business information, and many others. Advertisements occupy a major share of space in almost every newspaper.

### III. TYPES OF NEWSPAPER

Depending on the frequency of publication the newspaper is of following types.

1. **Daily Newspaper** - A daily newspaper is printed every day, sometimes with the exception of Sundays and occasionally Saturdays (and some major holidays). Saturday and, where they exist, Sunday editions of daily newspapers becomes larger, include more specialized sections (e.g., on arts, films, entertainment) and advertising inserts, and cost more. Generally the staff members work from Monday to Friday and the Sunday and Monday editions largely depend on content made in advance.

Most daily newspapers are sold in the morning. In practice (though this may vary according to country), a morning newspaper is available in early editions from before midnight on the night before its cover date, further editions being printed and distributed during the night. The later editions can include breaking news which was first revealed that day, after the morning edition was already printed.

2. **Semi-weekly Newspaper**- Semi-weekly newspapers are published two times a week and are known as semi-weekly publications.

3. **Triweekly Newspaper**- A Triweekly newspapers are published once in three weeks and are known as Tri-weekly publications.

4. **Weekly Newspaper**- Weekly newspapers are published once a week, and are smaller than daily newspapers.

5. **Biweekly Newspaper** - Biweeklyweekly newspapers are published once in two weeks i.e. fortnightly.

Depending on the geographical scope of publication the newspaper is of following types.

1. **Local Newspaper** - A local newspaper serves a region such as a city, or part of a large city. Almost

every market has one or two newspapers that dominate the area. Large metropolitan newspapers often have large distribution networks, and can be found outside their normal area, sometimes widely, sometimes from fewer sources.

2. **National Newspaper** - Most nations have at least one newspaper that circulates throughout the whole country.

3. **International Newspaper** - There is also a small group of newspapers which may be characterized as International newspapers. The New York Times International Edition is an example.

Depending on the subject matter of publication the newspaper is of following types.

1. **General newspapers** - General newspapers cover all topics, with different emphasis. While at least mentioning all topics, some might have good coverage of international events of importance; others might concentrate more on national or local entertainment or sports.

2. **Specialized newspapers** - Specialized newspapers concentrate more specifically on special matter such as sports, business, education, agriculture, science, mathematics, technology, financial matters, health, political and travel etc.

### IV. CRITERIA OF NEWSPAPER

**Public accessibility:** Its contents are reasonably accessible to the public, traditionally by the paper being sold or distributed at newsstands, shops, and libraries, and, since the 1990s, made available over the Internet with online newspaper websites. While online newspapers have increased access to newspapers by people with Internet access, people without Internet or computer access may not be able to access the Internet, and thus will not be able to read online news. Literacy is also a factor that prevents people who cannot read from being able to benefit from reading newspapers (paper or online).

**Periodicity:** They are published at regular intervals, typically daily or weekly. This ensures that newspapers can provide information on newly emerging news stories or events.

**Currency:** Its information is as up to date as its publication schedule allows. The degree of up-to-date-ness of a print newspaper is limited by the need for time to print and distribute the newspaper. In major cities, there may be a morning edition and a later edition of the same day's paper, so that the later edition can incorporate breaking news that has occurred since the morning edition was printed. Online newspapers can be updated as frequently as new information becomes available, even several times per day, which means that online editions can be very up-to-date.

**Universality:** Newspapers covers a range of topics, from political and business news to updates on science and technology, arts, culture, and entertainment.

### Characteristics of Newspapers

Primarily newspapers are print media even though the digital age offers online newspapers and e-newspapers. That is why it has all the features that any print medium has. Major features of newspapers are given below:

#### 1. Predominance of News Oriented Content:

There are three types of content in newspapers: news, views, and advertisements. This news overshadows the others because newspapers are primarily meant for the dissemination of news.

#### 2. Regular Periodicity

Newspapers may be published daily or weekly. Periodicity may vary but, regularity should be kept. Every newspaper keeps a particular regularity in publication.

#### 3. Future Reference Facility

Being a print medium, newspapers can be kept for future use. This archive ability makes newspapers one of the main sources of historical research.

#### 4. Choice of the Time of Use

Unlike television and radio, anybody can read newspapers at any time. Some read in the morning while others in the evening after work. This facility increases the popularity of newspapers.

#### 5. Literates Medium

Unlike television and radio, newspaper demands literacy from the part of the readers.

#### 6. Low Cost

The newspaper is a cost-effective medium compared to other media. Anybody can afford a newspaper and use it everywhere. Electronic media requires a power supply and new media need digital technology.

#### 7. Textual Medium

Text is the soul of newspapers, though they carry images and graphics.

#### 8. Multiple Users

Many readers can read a copy of the newspaper simultaneously or separately.

#### 9. Easy-to-fold paper

It is printed on thin paper which is very easy-to-fold even if it contains multiple pages.

**10. Free access** –it is also published on an Internet site that usually offers free access to certain news.

## V. STRATEGIES OF USING NEWSPAPER AS A TEACHING RESOURCE IN THE CLASSROOM

There are varied strategies of using Newspaper as a teaching resource which the teacher uses in the classroom in order to provide meaningful experiences to the students.

### 1. Discussing the contemporary incidents:

The newspaper contains contemporary incidents occurring every day in the world which the teacher uses in teaching learning process by correlating with the subject. The students are told to go through the newspaper and to note down or collect the cut pieces from the newspaper on the current events occurring in the world. The students share it in the class before the teacher. This practice not only helps the students in understanding and critical thinking the topic but also developing the general knowledge of the students.

### 2. Inter-disciplinary learning:

The students are advised to collect new innovations in various disciplines from the newspaper articles and to go through it. They get information regarding the discoveries, inventions and issues in various problems of population, environment, space, technology, economy, health, medicine, agriculture etc. and discuss it in presence of the teacher. They also display it on the display board and keep it in the file or folder in the computer for their future reference.

### 3. Comprehension reading:

The students read the newspaper articles thoroughly and identify the main themes as well as sub-themes. The students are divided in groups or independently for a minute reading. They summarize the key points of the article and discuss in the class. The teacher puts comprehension questions from the newspaper articles in order to know the extent to which the students understand the article which conveys the teacher regarding the ability of learning the paragraph. It enhances not only the ability of learning but also the understanding the paragraph. It develops vocabulary, sentence formation ability, general knowledge, antonyms, synonyms, pronunciation,

punctuation, remembering and understanding power.

#### **4. Expressing the vocabulary:**

The teacher instructs the students to select some unknown words from a paragraph of a newspaper article. The students find its meaning from using dictionary. The teacher tells them to form the sentences of their own using the unknown words. All the students form different types of sentences and store new words in their memory. It enhances the vocabulary. The process of finding the meaning of some unknown words not only increases the skill of using dictionary but also they know other related words along grammar.

#### **5. Debate and classroom discussion:**

The teacher gives a topic to the students from newspaper article for debate and discussion in the class. The students go through the newspaper article. They point out the main points of the paragraph and are able to know the subject matter of the paragraph. They become search oriented to find the solution of the topic and the evidence. While participating the debate for argument in the class they develop speaking skill, word processing, fluency, fearlessness and self-confidence. During question answer discussion the students learn the skill of questioning and answering

#### **6. Exercise writing:**

The teacher assigns the students any paragraph from newspaper to write and summarize it in their notebooks. They are also advised to write a new title of that paragraph. By doing this they acquire the content knowledge of that paragraph. They are able to develop the writing skill and know the new words, sentence structure, various clauses, noun, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs and punctuation etc. as well as writing speed.

#### **7. Historical outlook:**

The teacher tells the students to go through the historical events published in the newspapers and point out the main points of the topic. Sometimes the teacher instructs them to collect the old newspaper from which they can find subject related topic also. They read it and present the topic in the class in presence of the teacher. The teacher along with the students discuss on the topic. It provides historical knowledge to the students and they are well acquainted with the historical places and time of occurrence of that event. It also conveys them about the culture of the past.

#### **8. Developing map skill in Geography:**

The students are instructed by the teacher to go through the newspapers to know the weather of the day, climate, location of a place through using atlas. This skill of searching enhances the inquisitiveness of the students. They collect data on weather pattern, effect of climate on that region, nature of soil in various places, nature of atmosphere and its effect, types of farming etc. and discuss in the class in presence of the teacher. The teacher puts questions to the students from which it can be well understood that the students really go through the newspaper.

#### **9. Doing the project:**

The teacher assigns the students group or individual project from newspaper on some current topic. They investigate on the theme, collect data from different angles using primary and secondary sources. They analyze data qualitatively and quantitatively and report the findings in writing. The findings are discussed in the class individually or group wise. By doing such type of project work their writing style, vocabulary, general knowledge, team spirit, inquiry attitude are developed and in future they will face no trouble in conducting research.

#### **10. Meta-literacy:**

Meta literacy is an expanded conceptualization of literacy that includes the ability to access and analyze media messages as well as create, reflect and take action, using the power of information and communication to make a difference in the world. The students are given a news of a newspaper to evaluate critically examining the source of the news, author, place, importance of subject matter and time. They are to identify the misleading facts and its remedy. The students discuss it in the class and the teacher also adds some important facts with it.

#### **11. Portfolio:**

Portfolio is a collection of student work that represents student activities, accomplishments and achievements over a specific period of time in one or more areas of the curriculum. The teacher assigns the students to prepare portfolio in every subjects. The students go through the newspaper and collect the pictures with the theme subject wise and place it either in a folder in the computer or in hard copy. These are evaluated by the teachers and the students can use it in their studies.

#### 12. Providing a title:

The teacher gives a paragraph of a newspaper article to the students from which the title of the article is kept hidden. They are instructed to read it thoroughly and assign a title of the article. The teacher collects the title from the students and matches with the students' title. By this process the teacher develops the thinking power of the students.

#### 13. Role playing:

The students are told to choose an interesting article or story from the newspaper and make enough copies for every pair of learners. They are instructed to first read the newspaper and then improvise a short role play. Role plays from newspapers are often conducted by the students by which the topic becomes easy to understand.

#### 14. Developing scientific literacy:

In the newspapers, articles and news that are focused on innovations and discoveries in the field of science education can bring in the classroom to make students aware. The news related to science is normally from advancement in the field of medicines, agriculture and other field of technology. One more very important aspect of science related news is focused on environment i.e. pollution, steps to curb pollution, extinct and endangered species, migrant species and about very rare species of birds also. Some newspapers have fixed the day and column for the science and environment related news and articles. So these articles can be brought into the classroom to expand knowledge, awareness and sensitivity towards these issues.

#### 15. Establishing a relationship between self and the environment:

When students learn from the textbook, it is somewhat dry and difficult to connect with real life. Students read in the textbook about types of pollution, causes of pollution and steps could be taken to curb the pollution but in real life they never bother about such steps therefore we need to sensitize our students towards sustainable development. This can be done with the help of print media and particularly through newspapers. In the newspaper, problems of local surrounding are presented in a very good manner by addressing to the audience unlike the text written in the textbook. When the reader read a report in the newspaper about environment it establishes a relationship between self and the environment through the report. After reading, reader feels a sense of connection with environment and they try to give

their contribution to the protection of environment. So, the language which newspaper reports uses bring the students close to the issue and thereby provide opportunity to explore the scientific phenomenon read in the classroom.

### VI. MERITS

1. The newspaper provides a trusted source of news on a regular basis.
2. It is easy to hold, read and simple to transport.
3. It is very simple to share.
4. It can be kept for a long period.
5. It serves a wide coverage.
6. It provides a quick response.
7. It is regular and frequent.
8. It is economical

### VII. DEMERITS

1. The news becomes quickly out of date as soon as it is printed.
2. It cannot compete with the 24 hour news TV channels and websites.
3. The newspapers may only be available in certain regions or countries.
4. People may not want to pay for the news anymore if they can get it for free.
5. Newspapers are less environmentally friendly than websites and TV channels
6. Newspapers have the shortest lifespan.

### ADVANTAGES OF NEWSPAPER IN THE TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS

1. It is the source of authentic information.
2. It can be used to develop thinking skills and specifically critical thinking skill.
3. It provides opportunity to connect textbook with real life setting.
4. It can create interest of the learners in the learning by setting real examples.
5. It can create a platform for developing transfer skill along with retention skill.
6. It acts as a tool to connect with local community as well as global issues.
7. It is a medium to update knowledge and aware with recent advancements.
8. It provides a medium for critical reading.

### DISADVANTAGES OF NEWSPAPER IN THE TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS:

1. Not all the subjects can be taught.
2. It lacks the element of uncertainty.
3. It can be extremely time-consuming process.
4. It is not necessarily interesting for learners.
5. All the students cannot purchase it.

### CONCLUSION

Newspapers are the sources of current information and a way to updated knowledge. It is a teaching resource to connect classroom learning with our surrounding. It provides a way to explore classroom content in the real life setting. It is used in a wide range of disciplines and for all the levels of learners. It presents environmental issues very wonderfully and brings live examples. It is a teaching resource to sensitize students towards environment. Newspaper can be used for a wide range of topics where students get opportunity to discuss the issue with peer group and with teacher also thereby enhancing their critical thinking, creative thinking, and team work and communication skill in the learning.

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