

## The Ongoing Debate over Teacher Centered Education and Student Centered Education

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**Abstract:** Teacher-centered education and student-centered education are two different approaches to teaching and learning that have been widely debated in the field of education. Both approaches have their advantages and disadvantages. Teacher-centered education, also known as traditional education, is an approach to teaching in which the teacher is the primary source of knowledge and authority in the classroom. Student-centered learning on the other hand helps students become active participants in their own discovery process. This paper compares these two approaches and endeavours to summarize their advantages.

**Keywords:** Teacher-Centered Education, Student-Centered Education, Learning, Motivation

### 1. Introduction

Teacher-centered education and student-centered education are two different approaches used for effective teaching and learning. Teacher-centered education, also known as traditional education, views the teacher as the major source of knowledge and authority in the classroom (Mascolo, 2009). The teacher lectures and disseminates information, and students are expected to absorb information and develop understanding. The teacher provides all the information and the student has to create meaning. The teacher is responsible for creating lesson plans and assessments, and the students are responsible for completing them. Student-centered education, on the other hand, focuses on the needs and interests of the student. The student is seen as an active participant in their own learning process, with the teacher serving as a facilitator or guide. In this approach, students are encouraged to explore, discover, and create their own understanding of the material. The teacher is responsible for creating a learning environment that allows for this, and the students are responsible for setting their own goals and for assessing their own progress.

### 2. Literature Review

Both teacher-centered and student-centered approaches have their advantages and disadvantages. Teacher-centered education is often seen as more efficient, as it allows for the dissemination of a large amount of information in a short time. However, student-centered education is often seen as more effective, as it

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allows for the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and it is more likely to foster student engagement and motivation. Mart (2013a, 2013b) stresses the importance of motivation and argues that it is one of the leading factors in educational achievement.

Teacher-centered education, also known as traditional education, is an approach to teaching in which the teacher is the primary source of knowledge and authority in the classroom (Hancock, Bray, & Nason, 2003). The teacher established the classroom rules. The teacher lectures and disseminates information, and students are expected to absorb and memorize that information. The teacher is responsible for creating lesson plans and assessments, and the students are responsible for completing them. The teacher explains the objectives of the lessons and provides feedback to students.

Teachers who employ teacher-centered approach focuses on a specific objective and deliver instruction in a lecture format. At the same time the teacher provides drills and practices to reinforce learning and assigns homework at the end. One of the main advantages of teacher-centered education is that it can be more efficient in terms of disseminating a large amount of information in a short amount of time. Additionally, teacher-centered education is often seen as more structured and predictable, which can be beneficial for students who struggle with self-directed learning. Peyton, More and Young (2010) regarding the teacher-centered classroom state that:

In a typical teacher-centered classroom, the teacher spends most of the time presenting the day's content to the class from the whiteboard/Promethean board or overhead projector. The students should be taking notes and asking questions during the lecture. This process should be completed with ease and not troublesome for students (p.21).

However, teacher-centered education also has a number of disadvantages. One of the main criticisms this approach receives is that it does not allow for the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students are often passive recipients of information, and they are not encouraged to explore, discover, and create their own understanding of the material. Also, the students are not actively participated in the learning process. This can lead to a lack of engagement and motivation on the part of the students. In particular, if teachers cannot create a comfortable learning environment, limited amount of learning occurs.

Furthermore, teacher-centered education can also be less inclusive, as it is not tailored to the individual needs and interests of the students. This can lead to a one-size-fits-all approach that does not take into account the different learning styles of the students. This can be particularly problematic for students who are struggling or who have special needs. Additionally, the teacher-centered approach can also lead to a lack of student autonomy and ownership of their learning. Students are not encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, and they are not provided with opportunities to set their own goals and to assess their own progress.

It's important to note that teacher-centered education is not without merit and it has its place in the classroom. The traditional approach can be beneficial in certain contexts and for certain subjects, however, it's important for teachers to be aware of the limitations of this approach and to use a variety of teaching methodologies to better meet the needs of their students.

Teacher-centered education is an approach to teaching that focuses on the teacher as the primary source of knowledge and authority in the classroom. While it can be efficient in terms of disseminating information, it also has a number of disadvantages, including lack of critical thinking and problem-solving skills development, lack of inclusiveness and student autonomy, and lack of student engagement and motivation. Therefore, it's important to be aware of the limitations of this approach and to use a variety of teaching methodologies to better meet the needs of students.

Student-centered education has a number of advantages that make it a more effective approach to teaching and learning. One of the main advantages is that because of the freedom it gives to students to explore, it allows for the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills (Cummins, 2007). Students are encouraged to think for themselves and to question the information they are given which are important elements to foster decision-making and problem-solving. At the same time, this helps them to develop a deeper understanding of the material and to see the relevance of what they are learning. Additionally, student-centered education is often seen as more engaging and motivating for students, as they are given the opportunity to take ownership of their own learning. When students take responsibility of their own learning, they can connect what they are learning to their prior knowledge. Students gain self-esteem by the help of this approach. Furthermore, student-centered education is more inclusive as it is tailored to the individual needs and interests of the students. This approach allows for different learning styles and acknowledges that each student is unique and learns differently. With the help of student-centered education, students have an active role in their learning process by means of trying “to make sense of what they are learning by relating it to prior knowledge and by discussing it with others” (Brophy, 1999, p.49).

Student-centered education also allows for more creativity and flexibility in the classroom. Teachers are able to adapt their teaching methods to the needs of their students and to create a learning environment that is more conducive to learning. This can lead to increased student engagement and motivation, and ultimately to better academic outcomes (Duckworth, 2009; Froyd, 2007). Additionally, student-centered education also promotes autonomy and self-direction, which can be beneficial for students.

However, combining these two approaches can lead to a more effective and well-rounded education. By combining teacher-centered and student-centered education, teachers can provide a structured learning environment while also encouraging students to take an active role in their own education. For example, in a teacher-centered classroom, the teacher can start by introducing a topic and providing background information. This can be followed by students working on projects or engaging in discussions that allow them to apply the information they have learned in a hands-on way. The teacher can then provide feedback and guidance as needed.

Incorporating student-centered activities such as group work, debates, and problem-based learning can also help students develop critical thinking and collaboration skills. These activities can give students the opportunity to explore a topic from different perspectives, allowing them to develop a deeper understanding of the material. Moreover, combining teacher-center and student-center approaches can help meet the diverse needs of all students. While some students may prefer a more structured and traditional approach, others may thrive in a student-centered environment. By offering both, teachers can cater to the needs of all students and help them succeed.

### 3. Conclusion

Teacher-centered education and student-centered education are two different approaches to education that have been used in classrooms for many years. In teacher-centered education, the teacher is at the center of the learning process and students are passive recipients of knowledge. In contrast, student-centered education places the students at the center of the learning process and the teacher serves as a facilitator and guide.

In a teacher-centered education system, the teacher is responsible for imparting knowledge to the students and the students are expected to absorb the information and create meaning. The teacher sets the pace and determines the direction of the learning process, and students are expected to follow along. This approach is often used in traditional classroom settings and can be effective for imparting basic knowledge and skills, but it may not be as effective in promoting critical thinking, creativity, and independent learning.

In contrast, student-centered education places the focus on the needs and interests of the students. The teacher serves as a facilitator and guide, helping students to explore and make connections between different concepts and ideas. This approach encourages students to take an active role in their own learning and to develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. It also allows for a greater emphasis on individualized instruction, as the teacher can tailor the learning experience to meet the needs and interests of each student.

One of the main advantages of student-centered education is that it can be more engaging for students and promote greater motivation and engagement in the learning process. By allowing students to take an active role in their own learning and to explore topics that are of interest to them, student-centered education can help to foster a love of learning that lasts a lifetime. Another advantage of student-centered education is that it can be more effective in promoting deep learning and retention of information. When students are actively engaged in the learning process and are able to make connections between different concepts and ideas, they are more likely to retain the information and be able to apply it in real-world situations.

In conclusion, both teacher-centered education and student-centered education have their advantages and disadvantages. While teacher-centered education can be effective for imparting basic knowledge and skills, student-centered education can be more engaging, promote greater motivation, and lead to deeper learning and retention of information. Ultimately, the most effective approach will depend on the needs and goals of each individual student and the learning environment in which they are operating. It's worth noting that in practice, most good teachers use a mix of both methodologies, the balance of which depends on the context, the subject and the students. Combining teacher-centered and student-centered education can lead to a more effective and well-rounded education. It provides students with a structured learning environment while also encouraging them to take an active role in their own education. This approach can help meet the diverse needs of all students and foster the development of critical thinking and collaboration skills. Combining these two methods can help learners with better achievement in learning because employing the methods in a structured way will not only create a productive learning environment but also help learners gain the necessary skills for further development.

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