

# **Brainstorming- A Permissive Strategy of Teaching**

**Bulti Das**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**West Guwahati College of Education**

## Meaning of brainstorming

**Brainstorming means storming of the brain i.e. to evolve or generate a number of knowledge and ideas as quickly as possible. As a strategy of teaching it was first popularized by A.F. Osborn (1963) through his writing Applied Imagination.**

**According to him, this strategy can be used with a group to explore a number of ideas related to a situation or solution of a problem without passing any judgment or censure. It is useful for the development of higher cognitive abilities like reflective thinking, creative imagination and problem solving of students.**

# Characteristics of brainstorming

- **1. Simple and specific problem-** In brainstorming technique for developing creativity among students, simple, specific and easy problem is selected.
- **2. Encouragement-** In brainstorming the group is encouraged to concentrate freely and friendly in a non-evaluative climate.
- **3. Spontaneity of ideas-** There is spontaneity and rapid production of ideas in the group for the solution of specific problem.
- **4. Modification of ideas-** Combination of modification of ideas is preferred in this technique.
- **5. Chain Thinking-** Chain thinking facilitates the brain storming group in discussion.
- **6. Competition-** There is an element of competition within the group. Each member tries to produce as many good ideas as possible.

# Characteristics of brainstorming

- **7. No Criticism-** There is no place for criticism and discouragement in this technique as they tamper imagination and creativity of all group members.
- **8. No Evaluation-** The quantity of ideas and the speed demanded in brainstorming does not leave any time for evaluation. Absence of external standards of evaluation as well as absence of internal evaluation reduces the feeling of restrictiveness.

# Definations of Brainstorming

- **1. According to Osborn, “Brainstorming is using the brain to storm a creative problem and to do so in a commando fashion, with each stromer. Audaciously attacking the same objective...The crux of brain storming technique lies in the fact that there exercise generates a wide spectrum of solutions as the participants explore along new and possible fruitful lines of thought.”**
- 
- **2. According to Page and Thomas, “Brainstorming is a technique of exploring possible solutions wherein participants are encouraged to contribute suggestions without risk of ridicule.”**
- **3. According to David, “Brainstorming is an approach to increase the learners creativity and openness for problem solving.”**

## 4 Steps to Successful Brainstorming

- **1. Form a small group of students (10-15) and state the problem or issue want to solve.**
- **For example: “ Growing unemployment in India”**
- **2. Identify the objectives of a possible solution.**
- **3. Try to generate solutions individually.**
- **4. All ideas are discussed in democratic way and most viable ideas are accepted for the solution of the problem in hand.**

# Advantages of Brainstorming

- **1. Brainstorming is a complete idea of making teaching learning process a child centered one. Students become active and independent enquirer and discover of the knowledge instead of remaining passive listeners in the teaching-learning process.**
- **2. With the help of this technique spoon feeding and information given tendency or rule on the part of teachers all can be removed from teaching learning environment.**
- **3. It provides opportunity to think, reason, analyze and synthesize and thus it proves helpful in the development of higher cognitive abilities among the learners.**
- **4. Brainstorming contributes to classroom collective power. It allows individual students voices to become one with the group's voice. The final ideas are generally identified through consensus. Students can collaborate in a comfortable and informal learning environment.**
- **5. This strategy also help students in the development of their creative and constructive potentialities. It also strengthens the problem- based learning.**

## Disadvantages of Brainstorming

- **1. All the members of the group may not be interested equally in the solution of the problem.**
- **2. The group may not be homogeneous with respect to general mental level or knowledge and skills required for the solution of the problem.**
- **3. Students in a group setting compete with one another rather than collaborative when generating ideas.**
- **4. The members may waste their time and energy without getting opportunity for the realization of cognitive or affective objectives.**
- **5. The concluding session may not result into useful conclusion or solution of the problem.**



## CONCLUSION

**Brainstorming is a useful strategy to encourage genuine collaboration and interaction among students in the classroom situation. Putting together a well stated problem and careful planning strategies can lead to meaningful idea generation and idea building which can be used in solving problems or addressing specific course – related issues.**