MEANING AND ADVANTAGES OF AUDIO- VISUAL AIDS

Effectiveness of teaching – learning process does not depend only on teacher but also upon the different types of equipments available in the classroom. The different equipments generally called audio- visual aids makes teaching – learning process more interesting, more stimulating, more reinforcing and more effective. According to Indian Education Commission (1964 – 66), “the supply of teaching aids to every school is essential for the improvement of the quality of teaching. It should indeed bring about an educational revolution in the country.” These are those instructional devices which are used in the classroom to encourage learning and thereby make it easier and interesting. Albert Duret rightly said, “it is easier to believe what you see than what you hear, but if you both see and hear, then you can understand more readily and retain more lastingly.” They are called so because they call upon both the auditory and visual senses of the learners.

Definitions:-

1. Carter V. Good:- “Audio – visual aids are those aids which help in completing the triangular process of learning i.e; motivation, classification and stimulation.”
2. Edger Dale:- “Audio – visual aids are those devices by the use of which communication of ideas between persons and groups in various teaching and training situations is helped. These are also termed as multisensory materials.”
3. Burton:- “Audio – visual aids are those sensory objects or images which initiate or stimulate and reinforce learning.”
4. Mcknown and Roberts:- “ Audio – visual aids are supplementary devices by which the teacher, through the utilization of more than one sensory channels keeps to clarify, establish and correlate concepts, interpretations and appreciations.”
5. S.P. Ahluwalia:- “Audio – visual materials reinforce the spoken or the written words with concrete images and provide rich perceptual experiences which are basis of learning. These material make learning less non-verbalistic and reduce the boredom of mere verbalism.”

Thus audio – visual aids are those instructional devices which makes teaching – learning process more interesting and effective. They use multi – sensory organs like hearing, seeing in order to make the process more vivid and impressionable. It reduces the rate of verbalism by providing content material in the form of concrete forms.

Advantages

The following points highlight the need, importance and advantages of audio – visual aids in the teaching – learning process.

1. Audio – visual aids helps in the maximum utilization of sense organs in the teaching – learning process. According to Gandhiji, “True education of the intellect can only come through a proper exercise and training of bodily, organs – hands, feet, eyes, ears and nose.” The use of sense – organs in any process helps us to gain maximum knowledge. Empirical as well as rational knowledge is easily gained by the use of senses.

2. They help us to make teaching – learning process more effective and interesting. The use of different audio – visual aids reduces the passiveness of the classroom interaction and makes it lively and interesting.

3. They help us to recognize and meet the individual requirements of the individuals. Some learn better through demonstration and some learn better through doing. So they recognize the individual differences of the learners.

4. They make the abstract ideas concrete and thus help in making learning more effective. It results into more clarity and better understanding.

5. It reduces the rate of verbalism by providing concrete materials in the form of charts, models, maps etc. It clarifies the abstract concepts by the use of different aids and thus helps us to make things more clear and meaningful to the students.

6. They help us to provide first hand experiences to students. For example it is not possible to bring the object in the class like lion, elephant etc and their pictures or models can be used for teaching purposes at that time. Thus these aids are good substitutes for the real objects as they make learning equally meaningful.

7. They help us to economise the efforts of the teacher and the taught. In other words, they save much time and energy of teacher and taught because very difficult items can be easily taught through their use in a limited effort.

8. They help us to develop creative power of the individuals. By providing the different types of equipments, the learners involves their all faculties in order to create or develop something new.

9. They help us in overcoming the shortage of resources like shortage of good classroom teachers, shortage of current facilities available for teaching and learning. 10. They help us in transfer of learning or training and helps us to develop scientific attitude among the learners.

**Types of Audio- Visual Aids:-**

The audio – visual aids have been classified in a number of ways according to different approaches, some are as:

1. Technical Approach:- They have been classified into two types viz, audio aids and visual aids. a. Audio – aids:- The aids involving the sense of hearing are called audio – aids e.g; radio, tape-recorder, records player etc. b. Visual aids:- Those aids which use sense of vision are called as visual aids, e.g; models, pictures, maps, bulletin board, slides, epidiascope, overhead projector etc.

2. According to 2nd approach, the audio – visual aids have been classified into two types viz; projected and non- projected teaching aids. a. Projected aids:- Teaching aids which help in their projection on the screen are called as projected aids. For example, film strips, slides, film projector, overhead projector, epidiascope etc. b. Non –Projected aids:- Teaching aids which do not help in their projection on the screen are called non-projected teaching aids. For example, chalk board, charts, actual objects, models, taps – recorder, radio etc.