

## A Study of Metaphors about Education

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### ABSTRACT

The present research paper focuses on the metaphorical ideas of the pre-service teachers about education. The sample consisted of 367 pre-service teachers of five colleges of education of four districts of the Gujarat state during the year 2003-04. The metaphorical ideas of them reflected what they thought of education. The result of the research indicated that most of them had positive ideas about education. It reflected their faith on the teaching profession.

**Key words** : metaphors

### Introduction

To understand and to explain a concept, a point easily, we compare it with a familiar person, place, or a thing. A particular way of thinking procedure related to that concept plays a very important role in doing so related to that concept.

Reflective technique leads a person to understand that problem or the proper understanding of the concept. Metaphor is a very effective and powerful technique to express beliefs or assumptions of a person. Metaphor is used to clear any concept with some characteristics of any person, thing or place. It helps in clarifying the understanding. Metaphor clears the thoughts of a person in a picture form. (Dominic Beux, N.D.).

According to Lackoff and Johnson, metaphors are a technique to reflect mental views of people in a picture form.

The most effective aspect of a metaphor is to clear the image of a concept that it stands for. (Collin, 1993.) e.g. if a teacher is a 'gardner', then students are 'plants' 'flowers'. If a school is a temple, then the teacher is a 'Statue of God,' and students are 'worshippers' or 'devotees'. The present research was finalized based on the researches undertaken earlier.

### Objectives of the Study

The following were the objectives of the study:

1. To know about the metaphors about education of pre-service teachers.
2. To classify the metaphors given by the pre-service teachers.
3. To decide the sequence of the group of metaphors about education.

### Questions of the Study

1. What are the metaphors about education of the pre-service teachers?
2. Can the metaphors about education be classified?
3. What are the classes of metaphors about education?
4. What is the sequence of groups of metaphors about education?

### Delimitations of the Study

1. The present research was delimited to the pre-service teachers of teacher training colleges of Gujarat state only.
2. No any self financed colleges of secondary teacher education were included here.
3. Only the secondary pre-service teachers of the academic year 2003-'04 were included here.
4. The pre-service teachers of P.T.C., Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedker Open University, IGNOU were not included here.

**Operational Definitions of Words:****Metaphor**

A word or a group of words about education of pre-service teachers of granted colleges of education of Gujarat State.

**Scope**

The granted colleges of education offering training to pre-service teachers of the Gujarat State were the scope of the study.

**Sample**

367 pre-service teachers of five granted colleges of education of four districts of the Gujarat state were the sample of the study. The three universities i.e. Bhavnagar university, Saurashtra University, and Gujarat university were included. The metaphors of education were got from the 367 pre-service teachers of the academic year 2003-'04.

Five teacher training colleges were selected with the purposive random sampling method. Only the granted colleges were included. No any self financed colleges of education were included. Out of 367 pre-service teachers,77 were from Shri G.H.Sanghvi Shikshan Mahavidyalaya, Bhavnagar; 99 were of Shri R.B.Sagar College of Education, and Shri Prakash College of Education, Ahmedabad ; 56 were from Shri P.D.Malaviya College of Education, Rajkot and 47 were from Shri C. H. Shah Maitree Vidyapith, Surendranagar.

**Tool**

A self prepared tool was used by the researcher. It contained three parts. The first part was of the primary information and illustration of what 'love' is and briefly was explained. The second part contained the primary but voluntary information about the respondent. The third part had the space to write five metaphors about education.

**Data Collection**

The researcher went personally to the colleges of education on the days allotted by the principals of the concerned colleges. He also helped the respondents in giving the data. In this way, the respondents from each college of education responded by writing metaphors about education.

**Data Analysis**

To analyze the data in the form of metaphors about education by the respondents, a general list of the metaphors was prepared. Then, the groups of metaphors having common qualities and features were classified .The procedure of listing and relisting and classifying and reclassifying continued for three times. Thus, 14 groups of metaphors of education were classified.

The description of each metaphor under each group was noted down. The frequency of each metaphor group was noted down. Total frequency and percentage were also noted down.

The reliability of classification was checked by the Pierson co-relation inter reliability.

The pre-service teachers were expected to give 1785 metaphors but the researcher had only 1460 metaphors. These 1460 metaphors were grouped into 14 main groups.

Under such 14 groups, metaphors classified and percentage are shown as under....

'Development'364(24.93%),'Education'(Cultivation)247(16.91%), 'Storage of Knowledge,'185(12.67%),'Upbringing'143 (9.79%),'life'134(9.17%), 'contemplation'54(3.69%), 'Guidance'53(3.63%),'Adjustment'26(1.78%), Procedure'23(1.57%),'Weapon'14(0.95%), 'Cobweb'8(0.54%), 'Nector'5 (0.34%),and 'Insight'5(0.34%),in total 1460 metaphors about education could be classified.

It was found out while interpreting the beliefs about education that it is a complex and multi process. It makes human life easier, available and multicolored.

It was also clarified that the researches undertaken about metaphors about education earlier were mostly similar. It was similar to the present research undertaken.

It was also found out in the earlier researches undertaken about metaphors about education titled "Metaphors about Education of Secondary Student Teachers"(Joshi, 2001) that education means 'Development' 'Art' 'Procedure' 'Knowledge'

'Treasure' and 'Dedication' Parmar (2002) also founded under the same title 'Development' 'Continuity of Life' 'Vast Knowledge' 'Cultivation' 'Mechanicality' 'Light' 'Treasure' 'Culture' 'Nector of Life' 'Achievement' 'Light house' 'Cultivation of Culture' and 'self development'.

Pre-Service Teachers' Metaphors about Education (Bullough 1991) show that education is Extension of father and motherhood, 'Farming of Cultures' 'Journey' 'Narrative' Transplantation of thoughts. Where as in the present research about education it was found that education is 'Development' 'Cultivation' "Change' 'Stage of Knowledge' 'Manifestation' "Life', 'Dedication' 'Guidance' 'Adjustment' 'Process' 'Weapon' 'Cobweb' 'Nector' and 'Insight' the metaphors found in the present research and the researches done earlier showed that there was quite similarity among the metaphors about education.

In Metaphors about education given by the pre-service teachers, it was observed that under the group 'Development' Complete development. 'Development of Values of life' Cultivation' 'Process of cultivation' under education foundation of education 'Knowledge' 'Preaching' 'Under' change' behavioral change' 'From darkness to lightness' ' self change' 'from known to unknown' under 'storage of knowledge' 'source of knowledge' 'stream of knowledge' 'Collection of knowledge' 'ocean of knowledge' 'Light of knowledge' and universe of knowledge' under 'manifestation' 'manifestation of abilities' search of self 'self realization' and 'self knowledge' 'under life ' life oriented experience' 'art of living life' 'life force' and elixir of life' 'under 'Dedication' 'devotion' 'contemplation' 'peace' 'yagna' and piousness' under 'guidance' 'guidance' 'learning' 'horoscope' under 'adjustment' under 'process' 'process running into the human mind' 'process showing new path'

'under 'weapon' 'weapon of employment' 'under 'cobweb' 'headache' 'composition' 'formality' 'cobweb' of understanding 'the clock making 'tik' tik 'sound' 'industry of producing citizens' under 'nector' nector of humanity' and the last group of metaphor 'insight' 'included 'eye' magnifying glass' 'spects' etc metaphors were found. Metaphors Classified under these groups showed that education is very large like ocean, very dense, and giving life to everyone. Vast similarity was found among the metaphors of education found here and the metaphors found in the researches about education undertaken previously. Metaphors about education of pre service teachers could be known and they were positive. The metaphors about education could be classified. The sequence of their groups was decided. The inter-reliability of the received metaphors about education given by the pre-service teachers was established.

It was also found out that the metaphors found here and earliest researches, the respondents were very notably positive about the metaphorical beliefs about education. Very few negative metaphors about education were found in both of them. It really reflected the faith and trust to education of the pre-service teachers. The respondents included in the present research showed their faith in education. Their responses were very positive and this was the major derivation from the study

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