

The Reflective Learner

This book is based on the journey of four teachers using the reflective learning method. The methodology builds the onus in the child, makes them aware of their mistakes, initiates them to take responsibility for their mistakes. There are multiple case studies presented in this book which have a huge underlying basis in psychology. It tries to understand what's going on in children's minds and, at the same time, how a teacher argues with his/her own set of assumptions and prejudices. It shows that a teacher is also learning constantly.

I was fascinated by the ideas, the extra efforts put in by the teachers to make those worksheets for two or three kids, respecting the diversity within children, understanding their space and time for learning. The objective of "Awakening the reflective learner in children", rather than making them just accept the givens (and not just compare their answers with others) is also interesting.

The major aspect of Reflective Learning is understanding and accepting that mistakes can be made. And this doesn't stop here, the continuum flows along while the child is exploring his or her mistakes and looking for alternative methods of building along with the context comprehending it, giving it deep understandings and associating with different examples. The child is not condemned for the mistakes but is encouraged to look beyond the mistakes and find associated reasons leading to the error. The child learns to deconstruct errors and reconstruct through holistic learnings, thus making it clear and simple for the child to be alive with the concepts, rather than just reading about them. These notions help build confidence, interest and better understanding of the subject. There is a record of shifts in students' behavior or attitude towards the subject through these interventions. The initiatives taken by the teachers are commendable as it shows how an educator, or the teacher impacts the student deeply.

This is an easy read which can be used as a reference or guidebook to learn on different techniques, how to bring the onus on the children. I would like to recommend this book for all the teachers and educators out there. A class atmosphere which doesn't conclude a child's effort into the two absolutes of *right* or *wrong*, which does not look at mistakes as failures but as a path to learn, allows a child to work on his problem areas. When the child is encouraged to observe one's own patterns of mistakes and corrects them, it becomes true learning when one can find one's own mistakes, be ok with it and tries to correct them by him/herself.

And hence the child-led learning, rather than teacher pointing out the mistakes all the time.

As the tag line says, seeing 'missed takes' in mistakes; the teachers have written the case studies, how we as an educator or teacher instead of pinpointing the mistakes, can make the child aware of his/ her mistakes. The book is based on the concept that mistakes are not bad; they help us find out the areas that we generally ignore.

And hence there lies an opportunity to find our blind spots and correct them.

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The above article by our Holistic Education fellows of batch 2019-20, is a review of the book THE REFLECTIVE LEARNER Compiled & Edited By Neeraja Raghavan ([Notion Press 2019](#))

