



## Various Innovative Teaching Aids for Geography Subjects at School Level

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### ABSTRACT

*New scientific teaching methods are being introduced in school education nowadays. Along with teacher's pedagogical content knowledge, the importance of using teaching aids is increasing. The writer mainly focused on innovative teaching aids from based on v to viii geography book under government upper primary school in West Bengal. The objective of the study was to know the Various Innovative Teaching Aids for Geography Subject at School Level. The Research question was what are the Various Innovative Teaching Aids for Geography Subject at School Level? The Methodology used by the author of current study was qualitative approach. The data for the study can be divided into two broad categories-the data gathered from primary sources and secondary sources. The study was discussed various innovative teaching aids used in geography physical classroom situation. Here the author separated various innovative teaching aids into two main parts. The first part was new comprehensive teaching aids and other part was Technology/Internet Based Teaching Aids for geography subject in upper primary schools. As the results of the study had found several innovative teachings which were Maps & Globe, Pictures & charts, 3D Models, Excursion and fieldtrips, Home Assignment, Quiz in Classroom, Sample of rock and minerals, Geography based website, Google earth, Google maps & street views and YouTube videos.*

**Keywords:** Scientific teaching methods, pedagogical content knowledge, Innovative Teaching Aids, qualitative approach, YouTube

*“The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don’t tell you what to see.”–  
Alexandra K. Trenfor<sup>(1)</sup>*

### INTRODUCTION

Indian History Civilization-Culture was the oldest in the world. Since the beginning of society, teachers have engaged themselves as social reformers, so it can be said that teachers are the backbone to building an elegant Society. A good responsible teacher teaches in front of his training skills, teaching standards and values, so the teacher becomes a role model for the students. In ancient times, teachers or gurus used teaching aids based on live experience. But nowadays, with the development of civilization, teaching learning methods and teaching aids have changed. Those of us who studied in the school in the first decade of the twenty-first



century know that there were no pictures or colour pictures in the books. Then after few years they are changed school books by pictures and colour pictures. Students are becoming more attentive to reading and knowing. Incidentally, here the book with colour pictures can become the centre of attention for students in a reading session. In this case we can usually say it is a teaching aid.

Methods of Teaching and Teaching aids are the two side of a coin and are closely related to each other. These two features are very important in school education to drive the teaching process. But there are some technical difference can be seen, which are Methods of Teaching are the way of instruction, while aids are resources and apparatuses teachers use to make further strengthening in the lesson and to make it more charming. Teaching methods are used by teachers as ways to current the content of the topic matter, while teaching aids are used as only aids for further prominence of the lesson. Hence, this is the main difference between teaching methods and teaching aids. Use of teaching aids not only increases fun elements to learning but also make the ideas simple to understand. A teacher always gripped in designing, developing and using the latest and innovative techniques and aids to teach little intellects. *E. Atkinson argued that there are various innovative teaching practices that should be adopted to improve the educational aspect (Atkinson et al., 1996)* <sup>[2]</sup>. Geography Teachers are countless helpers of knowledge and skills in the current era in the teaching and learning occupation. Teachers use teaching aids to improve classroom instruction, compact learners' attention and create an enthusiasm to learn. These teaching aids are New Comprehensive Teaching Aids (maps, charts, globe, 3d model, specimen sample of rocks and minerals excursion & field trips) and Technology/internet Based Teaching Aids (geographical website, Google earth, Google maps, Google street views, YouTube videos) that help the teacher to effortlessly carry out the teaching-learning process. A geography teacher always utilizes the intensive collection of all the probable current aids in creating learning simple for the pupils. Uses of teaching aids can help the learning procedure by making it motivating and less time consuming.

## **RATIONALE OF THE STUDY**

Instructions of teaching and teaching aids are always helpful for teaching-learning process. Since they are related to each other and work in harmony with each other therefore instructions of teaching and teaching aids are equally important for students learning system. The need of the study are-

- 1) Enhancement the consistency of academic achievement through academic motivation.
- 2) Students will go deeper into the subjects of geography with interest through further studying.
- 3) Increase enrolment rate because students can learn something new if they go to school today.
- 4) As they get learning satisfaction through teaching aids in democratic classroom, their creativity level will increase.

## **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The objective of the study is-

- To know the Various Innovative Teaching Aids for Geography Subject at School Level.



## RESEARCH QUESTION

The Research question is-

- What are the Various Innovative Teaching Aids for Geography Subject at School Level?

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The nature of current research is qualitative approach. The data for the qualitative research can be separated into two broad categories-the data gathered from primary sources and secondary sources.

*Primary Sources:* The primary sources were the writings and correspondence of original draft of speeches, articles, newspaper accounts, addresses from YouTube and other social media, website's and Author's self-experiences etc.

*Secondary Sources:* The secondary sources include articles published in journals, books, magazines, editorials, the data gathered by other sources, reports of several committees, government policies, and research reports etc.

## VARIOUS INNOVATIVE TEACHING AIDS

Geography subject is the learning of different aspects of the environment & earth. It is important to have teaching aids maturity and aesthetic view to make students attentive and attractive in classroom learning for geography Subject. The author divides Innovative Teaching aids into two parts likely 1a and 1b.

### 1) New Comprehensive Teaching Aids

There are various types of comprehensive teaching aids in new times such as-

**Maps & Globe:** A map is a structural representation, generally in two dimensions (2D), of various components like surface, ocean floor, river flow, forest, weather map and relief map, physical, political and also topographical maps are seen. A globe is actual essential for geography and other subjects. It is the exact model of our earth and really vital for all steps of Geography teaching. A geography teacher will use maps while teaching the book 'আমাদের পরদেশ' in class five, there are West Bengal's environment, agricultural resources, rivers, forests mineral resources etc. which students will benefit from the map. On the other hand, the class six book 'আমাদের পৃথিবী' must use maps while teaching the rotation speed of the earth, where are you, ice-covered continents, maps etc.

**Pictures & charts:** The use of pictures and charts are widely accepted as geography teaching aids. Current time in government schools of West Bengal, the extensively use of pictures and chats in the school geography books from class five to class eight. While teaching the students The teacher can highlight the various resources of West Bengal, biodiversity, human body diagram etc. On the other hand, Earth's atmosphere, pressure rings and air currents while use charts teaching class eight and also rock and soil, air pressure use charts while teaching class seven.



**3D Models:** “A three-dimensional object is solid rather than flat, because it can be measured in three different directions, usually the height, length, and width. The abbreviation 3-D can also be used” ( [www.collinsdictionary.com](http://www.collinsdictionary.com)). Three-dimensional (3D) model has become remarkably popular in current years as teaching aids in School level. A geography teacher can teach the classroom through 3D models of landforms in class 7 textbooks. Also, the image of the Earth's interior from the 8th class book can be shown through 3D model using thermocol and verities of colour.

**Excursion and field trips:** This is real-world learning or learning from nature of experiences. Students obtain subject knowledge in the classroom situation which promotes their academic achievement and level of aspiration. But the field trip gives a fuller version of that reading through real knowledge. Every teacher needs to guide the students so that they can match the academic curriculum with reality.

**Home Assignment:** Home assignments are essential to keep students engaged with the subject. Geography teacher will give their home assignment after teaching but not daily may be one time or two times in a week. Here the teacher will stimulate the students by teaching various creative arts, pictures, model, and diagrams apart from just writing at home.

**Quiz in Classroom:** As the most important part of classroom instruction and interaction, most students demanded quizzes when the author was teaching in the classroom, and this happened often. The author used to organize the quiz based on the old reading. A geography teacher can organize quizzes to promote healthy competition and recapitulated among students.

**Sample of rock and minerals:** When a geography teacher gives instruction to class seven and eight students, he will use rocks and minerals, which will give them real-life experiences and a sense of origination. According to author, when he was teaching rocks using live sample to the students of class VII and VIII that a unique interest and excitement can be seen in the students which was not seen in their previous classroom.

## 2) Technology/Internet Based Teaching Aids:

The use of Technology or internet Based Teaching Aids plays an important role in the teaching and learning process today. Technology provides several aids that teachers can use in the classroom to improve student knowledge.

In rural area, the number of users in Internet is 14.70 million and urban area 15.62 million in West Bengal. In total, the amount of Internet users is 30.31 million in West Bengal (TRAI report, 2020)

<sup>[3]</sup> Technology and the internet have a deep convergence goal with education nowadays. It is true that we take the help of various browsing apps to know something and to study something like Google, Bing etc. Having some gadgets is a must to use technology and internet best teaching aids, which almost every teacher has like Laptop, Smartphone, and Tab etc. A geography teacher can easily bring this into the classroom for teaching.

There are various types of Technology based teaching aids helping teaching learning process namely-



**Geography based website-** *“A website (also written as web site) is a collection of web pages and related content that is identified by a common domain name and published on at least one web server. Examples of notable websites are Google, Facebook, Amazon” (Wikipedia).* <sup>[4]</sup> Geography based website means a website where a domain encompassed by various characteristics of geography such as climatic, forestry, physical, data centric etc. Hither, a geography teacher teaches atmospheric pressure from the eighth grade ‘আমাদের পৃথিবী’ book, he can use various websites to teach the students. Various types of website such as <https://earth.nullschool.net>, <https://www.ventusky.com/>, <https://www.radar-live.com/>, <https://www.mosdac.gov.in/> etc.

**Google earth-** In our contemporary time, internationally unified society, it is more significant than endlessly that we realise the world around us. Google Earth isn’t just an aid about geography. “Place” is worldwide, covering disciplines, cultures, values and landscape, linking us all to the neighbouring world. With Google Earth as a teaching aid you can learn about variety across biomes and metropolises cities, quantity how a river has transformed shape intensely, or current status of forest land. Geography teacher using Google Earth in classrooms can give comfort to envision abstract concepts through a global canvas, allowing students to attach what they learn within to what they expertise in their daily lives, community, nation and to the larger world. A geography teacher may use Google earth in showing several continents, neighbouring countries of India and climatic region etc. from the eighth grade ‘আমাদের পৃথিবী’ book.

**Google maps & street views-** Google Maps has developed significantly in recent years. Author use Google Maps as a faithful material for students to refer to make two locations in a geography classroom. Students were free to choose one area in West Bengal northern part and one from Southern part as the object of their book ‘আমাদের পরদেশ’ in class five. From this events a geography teachers can taught distance, road several geographic reliefs rivers.

*“This year Google Street View turned ten years old. Since launching a decade ago the Street View cars have driven more than 10 million kilometres in over 70 countries. With just a few clicks, Street View takes your students far beyond the borders of the classroom to almost anywhere in the world. Get a bird’s-eye view, take a virtual field trip, and search for other locations; wherever your interests carry you. You’ll see astonishing images along the way. Explore historical monuments, natural monoliths, and wildlife refuges. You can even dive under the ocean’s surface” (Google official)* <sup>[5]</sup>. Here a geography teacher can show Google Street View according to classroom instructions to the students with joyful environment.

**YouTube videos-** *“The use of videos in mainstream schooling is under-examined. Drawing on the experiences of nine Australian secondary teachers this research examines ways in which instructional videos, mostly from YouTube, were used in mainstream classrooms” (Fyfield 2021).* *“The use of YouTube blog-based learning media in learning in the 8th grade made the class more effective and fun. In addition, teachers changed their learning method from learning media-assisted lecture method to problem-based learning method” (Karamina et al. 2020).* In geography classroom, YouTube can be used to clarify the subject content, to include the students in searching for evidence of a lesson, and to motivate an innovative learning aid. Using YouTube in geography can support students to acquire new knowledge experiences in using technology. YouTube can be used in numerous ways as learning resources to find information and as an aid that enables detailed learning that supports, investigates, and analyses ideas, as well as shapes out knowledge, where geography teachers have roles to stimulate interaction among the pupils.



## RECOMMENDATION

- Emphasis you're teaching on certifying that your pupils learn the key ideas, information and skills of geography by using Aids.
- Teacher always create democratic classroom environment and teach a remarkable geography curriculum and fixed learning events that give students to think solid, but are realizable for them.
- Allow students to think reflectively and geographically.
- Create a positive learning environment where pupils support each other's learning and making faults and from there they will be reach a new standard place.
- Inspire schoolchildren to be good geographers and world citizens.
- Boost students to be operative geography learners who observe their knowledge and their thinking, and use this to make decisions about how to straight their learning hard work (metacognition).

## IMPLICATION

- Through the use of new innovative teaching aids, students will be taught and students will read with enthusiasm.
- Students will be more aware of geography issues and environment through better understanding by using teaching aids.
- Different websites or apps which are being used in front of the students by the teacher and what they are learning. It will develop their general skills and store in live long memory.
- Students' thinking ability will increase which will make abstract thinking and concrete thinking very strong in them.
- Not only students but also teachers will develop new skills and knowledge. It is very important aspect in teaching profession.
- As teachers and students alike interact in the classroom through joyful learning. So self-satisfaction will be awakened in everyone and that is very important for academic achievement.
- Teaching aids greatly help students to understand the lesson. As a result their academic burden is reduced a lot.

## CONCLUSION

This paper has spoken the teaching and learning aids related to futuristic learning and global competency. Professional success of every professional has depends mainly on his updated form of professional knowledge. In the present era world with advancement in technology this qualities can be received through up-to-dated. Since teaching occupation has an honourable position in society therefore the teaching process is the most valuable things in society as well as Nation. A teacher can teach in any method but he will mainly give lessons with emphasis on teaching aids, so as to increase interest in reading and listening understanding among the students. By extensively using of innovative teaching aids a geography teacher will be able to create curious learning in them. So goes without saying Teaching aids are as important to a





teacher as the pen is to a writer. In classroom instructions the amount of Internet use is very infrequently nowadays. However, it must be well-known that absence of Internet access in many schools within our Country as well as West Bengal is another reason for such low prevalence for using internet based teaching aids. Anyhow teachers will overcome all these barriers and move forward by improving students' cooperation, healthy competition, sympathy, brotherhood, and professional qualities.

## DEMARCATATION

- This article is written based on physical classrooms only, virtual or other online classes are not included here.
- Here, the article geography subject bound at upper primary level (class V to VIII) under government school is specially written only.
- Above the article is written based on only the classrooms of government-aided and government-sponsored schools in West Bengal.

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***Citation & Weblink:***

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