

Miss. Bharti Singh¹ & Minakshi Biswal², Ph. D.

¹*M.Ed.(2018-20)*

²*Associate Professor, Vasanta College for Women, KFI Rajghat, Varanasi (U.P.)*

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The book **Totto – Chan: The Little Girl at The Window** is written by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi and published in 1982. The writer describes the period of TottoChan's student life at Tomoe Gakuen which was founded in 1937. The main character of the book is TottoChan who is the writer herself. The writer Tetsuko Kuroyanagi was called as TottoChan when she was a student at Tomoe Gakuen. Tomoe Gakuen is a School which is different from other conventional schools. Most conventional schools the learning system focused on the teacher, the role of student is only to accept the material presented by the teacher and have to obey the rules made by the school conventional schools also have a curriculum that must be adhered to by students. The concept given by the teacher with the lecture model, the way to communicate between students and teachers is still rarely found. In another side conventional schools have classrooms and facilities that are very complete but that is different from the school in Tomoe Gakuen. Tomoe Gakuen is a school owned by Sosaku Kobayashi as headmaster, where classrooms are located in wagon. The learning system focuses on students. The students not only sit and listen to the teacher explain the material, but they are given the freedom to chose the subjects they like Tomoe Gakuen applies a student –focused learning model. The teachers invite students to play and learn, because of that students do not feel bored during learning. The various studies rarely tell about the child-centered approach mentioned in the book.

Research Question of the study- The research question of the present study is:

What is the approach of teaching learning process explained in the book 'Totto Chan : The Little Girl At The Window' written by Tetsuko Kuroyangi ?

Title of the study- The title of the study is:

A study of the child-centered approach in the book 'Totto Chan: The Little Girl at the Window'

Operational definition of the key term used-

Child-centered approach- Unlike teacher-centered approach in schools, child-centered approach facilitates a more collaborative way for students to learn. In child-centered approach the focus is on both students and content. Instructor is just the facilitator.

Objectives of the study- The objectives of the study are-

To find out different situations provided in 'Totto Chan: The Little Girl at The Window' regarding child-centered approach and to discuss the relevancy of child-centered approach in the present scenario.

Delimitation of the study- The study is limited to a book which is an autobiography of Tetsuko Kuroyanagi entitled as 'Totto Chan: The Little Girl at The Window'. The study is limited to learner-centered approach at primary level.

Method of the study- In the present study Thematic Content Analysis method is used, where data was collected from primary and secondary sources. It is a form of qualitative research.

Source of the study- Primary source of the study is the book itself while the secondary sources are review of related literature, youtube and websites.

Rationale of the study- The basic rationale of the study is that school should design to enhance students learning, not to improve organizational efficiency. The researcher felt the need of study to explore the child-centered approaches explained in the book 'Totto Chan: The Little Girl at The Window'. Through this study we will be able to know how to apply child-centered approach in schools. Thus, the book is taken for study.

Findings- The core of child-centered education is to help the child become independent, responsible, and confident. Teachers who use this approach want to cover all areas of growth including social, emotional, and physical. In the book of TottoChan we find that at the school (Tomoe Gakuen) the children are helped to develop the knowledge and skills needed in all content areas.

Relevance of 'TottoChan: The Girl at the Window':

It is the need of hour to ensure that the purpose of school is to protect and promote children's innate creative capacity of learning from their experience, to promote wholeness and integration in them by focusing on their personal growth, and develop them into creative and competent members of the society. 'TottoChan- Little Girl at the Window' denotes that the education system in the school at Tomoe Gakuen is very relevant for present scenario. The child-centered approach of teaching-learning process enabled the students to become an independent and competent member of society who are now contributing effectively to their society.

Today, the emphasis is to encourage students to have self-education and one that grows with experience. So, the most students are encouraged to learn through hands-on-activities, along with theoretical knowledge, the better it is for them because then, retention rate soars up and students know, when they can apply that knowledge in the practical life.

From what used to be a convergent approach in the past, today the emphasis is more on open-ended self-directed learning or divergent teaching because the world is changing at a drastic pace and any strategy for change must contend with diverse factors affecting the education system.

In the convergent approach, the focus is on applying approaches that converge towards the teaching of specified subject matter. It is the highly structured and teacher-centered approach where students are merely passive recipient of knowledge transmitted to them and learning achievements are measured by standardized test. On the contrary, the focus in a divergent approach is flexible student-centered, where the students are active participant in the learning process and learning achievements are assessed by a variety of evaluation tool such as self-education in parallel to teacher evaluation. The term student-centered learning refers to a wide variety of educational program, learning experiences, instructional approaches and academic approach strategies intend to address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspiration or cultural background of individual students and groups of students.

Situations where in child-centered approach is found at Tomoe-

The learning situations at Tomoe provide the students opportunity to learn easily.

- The school was in a old train cabin(the concept of school is totally changed here unlike of four walls)
- There is no dress code in school,
- there is a song for students for healthy food and chewing it well.

- At Tomoe each and every student is provided a tree to take care of and the students considered it as their property
- Students are taken to outdoor trip where they get aware of various knowledge.
- From the story of the book TottoChan we find that the children should not be bounded to controlled situations but they should be provided opportunities to explore and learn. At Tomoe Gakuen students are going to an outdoor trip where they get many opportunities to learn.
- There is also a farmer teacher who is assigned to make the students aware of various plants and its growing process. If students are provided situations for learning by doing they will learn effectively.
- At Tomoe the headmaster adopts an interesting way to make the students learn to eat healthy food.
- If we try to teach students in a forceful way they don't learn but if we make the teaching way interesting the students grasp it and enjoy as well.
- Students can learn more effectively if practical task is given.

This was an example of child-centered approach of teaching which enabled the students to learn not about nature but it was helpful in the development of responsible and helping attitude among them.

In the current scenario teacher support students endeavour to get information through research and not give them information directly. Student-centered instruction is to engender active learning by using method such as cooperative learning, open-ended assignment, critical thinking exercises, simulation and problem-solving activities.

In order to accomplish educational goals- schools, teachers, guidance counsellors and other educational specialist may employ a wide variety of educational methods, from modifying assignment and instructional strategies in the classroom to the entirely redesigning the ways in which students are grouped and taught in a school.

In the current scenario teacher should support students endeavour to get information through research and not give them information directly. Student-centered instruction is to engender active learning by using method such as cooperative learning, open-ended assignment, critical thinking exercises, simulation and problem-solving activities.

By giving students responsibilities and independence through student-centered instructional approach, it has to develop characteristics of life-long learner- motivation, self-

evaluation, time-management and skill to access information. Cooperative learning is now the new norm for the classroom instruction. It is also an instructional paradigm in which team of students work on structured task (e.g. homework, assignment, laboratories, experiment, or design project) under important condition which qualify criterions such as –positive interdependence, individual accountability, face-to-face, inter-action, appropriate use of collaborative skills and regular self-assessment of team functioning.

Advocate of student-centered learning want to challenge or overturn many common organizational or instructional tendencies in schools by making students learning the primary objectives i.e. all considerations that do not any way improve or facilitate students learning would become secondary (or lower) in importance.

Conclusion- On the basis of this novel 'Totto Chan The Little Girl at the Window' we find that a school can be run even in an abandoned rail coach without the prevelant classroom surrounded by four walls. The novel proved that the infrastructure for the school can be compromised with another one but the teaching and learning method shouldn't. The story of the novel tells that the essential thing for the school is to provide proper learning situations to the students. Teaching learning process based on child-centered approach is helpful in obtaining teaching objectives. School at Tomoe is the proof to it. Students who ever studied there are now a successful personality.

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