

# Critical Thinking Skill for Students: For Better Today and Sustainable Future

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**Abstract-** *“All of us do not have equal talent but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talent”*

**- John F Kennedy**

*Humans are the ultimate creation of nature as they have the ability to think and analyse any situation and take decision on their own. In broad terms, critical thinking is ‘thinking with a purpose’ or thinking for judgement. It seeks to explore questions about current knowledge and a way to find out the solutions of unclear queries therefore critical thinking is considering as a basic life skill. It is a skill to enquire and find out the solution of any unexpected situation or circumstances. Creative thinking, open mindedness and inquisitiveness are included in it. Basically critical thinking deals with knowledge, skill and attitude which are essential for sustainable life and long lasting future. Skill development is an integral part of concept of Education for Sustainable development. It is a future oriented problem solving skill which helps person to exist in workplace confidently. Present paper is an attempt to focus on the concept of critical thinking skill, its relevance and usefulness for students to be successful in their working arena. The researchers have tried to give some recommendations in this direction. Researchers used secondary data from study and various articles, research papers, journals, and online material.*

**Keywords:** skills, critical thinking, decision making, life skills

## **Introduction**

“The function of Education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education.”

**- Martin Luther King Jr.**

Education is not only the process of providing knowledge but it deals with the development of values and skills in students also. Students cannot achieve their potential through theoretical knowledge only, they should have developed an ability to think and solve the problems of daily life. Critical thinking deals with searching, obtaining, evaluating and analysing, synthesizing and conceptualizing. A critical thinker is inquisitive, well informed, trustful, open minded, flexible and biasfree, prudent in making judgments, clear about issues, and believes in relevant

information. Critical thinking is a cognitive process which deals with high order exploration of issues, ideas and facts before accepting them.

There are some basic characteristics which are shown in the attitude and behaviour of a critical thinker as they are open minded or independent about their thoughts, impartial, humble, can manage balance between their personal and social life etc. Besides, they have ability to integrate things, have perseverance and courage, have high level of self-confidence etc. It plays an important role in the enhancement of learning ability of the students. The main critical thinking skills in which students should be exercised during their studies are critical analysis, introductory and concluding justification, valid conclusion, distinguishing facts and opinions, evaluation of the credibility of sources, clarification of concepts and recognition of conditions. Today we are following a multinational and multi-cultural system where an intelligent decision makes us more stable in globalized world so critical evaluation of any matter is essential for individuals. It is useful for everyone because it has some prominent features like-

- Critical thinking is reflective in nature.
- It has some standards
- It is always authentic and reasonable.

### **Research Questions**

1. What is the concept of critical thinking skill?
2. Is there any need of critical thinking skill for students?
3. Are there any recommendations to improve critical thinking skill in students?

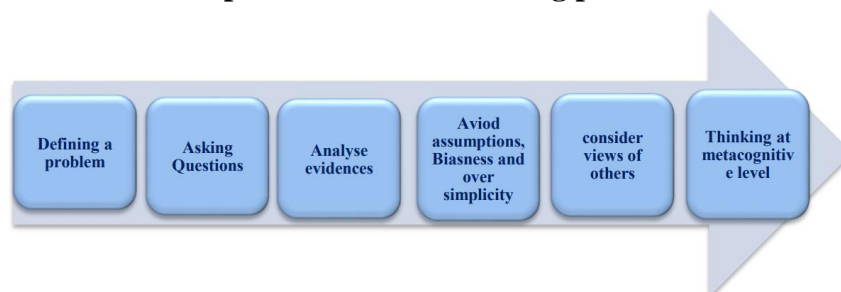
### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To discuss the concept of critical thinking.
2. To find out the ways to develop critical thinking in students.
3. To suggest some measures for enhancement of critical thinking skill among students.

### **Methodology**

The proposed study is descriptive in nature. The research is done based on secondary data. Data is collected from various research journals, websites and articles. The purpose of the study was to find out the need, importance and ways to enhance critical thinking skill.

### **Steps of the critical thinking process**



### **Ways to Develop Critical Thinking in Students**

In present scenario, the role of teacher becomes more crucial. Teachers have the responsibility to prepare their students intellectually strong so that they can participate in the competitive world. Teacher should develop the attitude in students to think critically about any situation rather than accept it without any logical background. It is convergent thinking because person who seeks to know truth or reality must think at cannon of logic. For the implementation of critical thinking, students must have the following characteristics:



As in figure, interpreting deals with the meaning and understanding about data, analysing means to break information in fragments and then reuniting it in various ways, reasoning has data and is presented in logical steps and at last evaluating is the process of judging the worth and credibility of given data.

### **How Can We Incorporate Critical Thinking in Existing Curriculum?**

Curriculum should be based on critical analysing and synthesis so students can construct their own knowledge as per their pace. It should not be based on rote memorization. Today there is an urgent need our future generation should have the ability to think critically and take decisions. Therefore, the curriculum should be based on the principle of the construction of knowledge and learning should be activity based. It is the core need to develop intelligent and skilled citizens for the nation but unfortunately there are some lacunas in this arena. Teacher can develop critical thinking in existing curriculum as per following way-

- Teacher should be facilitator not knowledge provider
- There should be active discussion

- Invite questions from students
- Challenge each other for discussion
- Always focus on 'how' and 'why'.
- Provide proper feedback to students
- Provide opportunities for students for SWOT (Strength, weakness, opportunities and threats) analysis.

### **Recommendations for The Development of Critical Thinking In Students**

Critical thinking is not always inborn or inherited; it can be learnt and taught too. Teacher can separate content in many parts and provide opportunities to the students to interpret it at their own way. Here teacher works as a facilitator not instructor who creates a smooth, unthreatened and healthy atmosphere in classroom to promote teamwork by the students. To become a critical thinker, teacher should train their pupils to develop certain qualities within them as-

- Open minded attitude and ability to accept the views and perceptions of others
- Enthusiastic and curious to get information from various sources, listen everyone carefully and give proper feedback.
- Independence of views so that discard the views of the group if they are not authentic and reliable.
- Humbleness in behavior and self-awareness.
- Courage to ask pertinent questions about any confusing issue.
- Ability to take responsibility to do any task.
- Frame the situation in own criteria and then take decisions

### **Conclusion**

There is a minute difference between thinking and critical thinking as thinking deals with a mental activity which are not always compulsory to be 'minded', sometimes it is mindless like day-dreaming or complete routine tasks like bathing, brushing etc. It is random and uncontrolled whereas critical thinking is more focused, purposeful and directed which leads to well-reasoned results. Critical thinking skill is emerging skill of present era because it separates factual information from inferences. It allows various views for discussion and select authentic views after analysis in all aspects of the statement or problem or any event, therefore it promotes careful and deliberate thoughts. It is an important skill in workplace, helps students to take right decision about their future and enhance their personal development. It is a future oriented skill which lies under the objective of Education for Sustainable development (ESD). ESD basically related with education which provide quality, richness of content, conceptual clarity, values and skill development in present generations so that our future generation will flourish and eager to take part in the globalized world.

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