

Unit 2

Classroom Management

A group of people coming together to learn a common subject or topic under the guidance of an instructor is called a **class**. The people taking the instructions are called students or pupil and the place where the instruction takes place is called the **classroom**.

Ensuring **positive learning environment** in a classroom so that teaching takes place smoothly and successfully is called **classroom management**.

Classroom management is the process by which teachers and schools create and maintain appropriate behavior of students in classroom settings. The purpose of implementing classroom management strategies is to enhance prosocial behavior and increase student academic engagement (Emmer & Sabornie, 2015; Everston & Weinstein, 2006). Effective classroom management principles work across almost all subject areas and grade levels (Brophy, 2006; Lewis, et al., 2006). When using a tiered model in which school-wide support is provided at the universal level, classroom behavior management programs have shown to be effective for 80-85 percent of all students. More intensive programs may be needed for some students.

Need for Classroom Management

As per our definition, classroom management is necessary to ensure the following –

- Students have some new take away from each class
- There is no disruption in the class
- All learning outcomes for the session are met

Whether you are already a teacher or plan to take up teaching, you know that every teacher goes to a class equipped with a **lesson plan**. This lesson plan ensures timely completion of class syllabus. However, to adhere to the lesson plan successfully, you must manage your classroom like a pro. If you fail to do that, your class will stray into unwarranted territory. And if this continues even for 2 or 3 sessions, you and your class will struggle to complete the syllabus.

Effective classroom management:

- Establishes and sustains an orderly environment in the classroom.
- Increases meaningful academic learning and facilitates social and emotional growth.
- Decreases negative behaviors and increases time spent academically engaged.

Although effective classroom management produces a variety of positive outcomes for students, according to a [2006 survey of pre-K through grade 12 teachers](#) conducted by APA, teachers report a lack of support in implementing classroom management strategies. Chaotic classroom environments are a large issue for teachers and can contribute to high teacher stress and burnout rates. Therefore, it is important to use effective classroom management strategies

at the universal level in a tiered model, as they serve as both prevention and intervention methods that promote positive outcomes for students.

Why are the Classroom Management System effective?

Classroom management systems are effective because they increase student success by creating an orderly learning environment that enhances students' academic skills and competencies, as well as their social and emotional development. Classroom management systems are most effective when they adhere to three basic principles (Brophy, 2006, pp. 39-40):

1. Emphasize student expectations for behavior and learning.
2. Promote active learning and student involvement.
3. Identify important student behaviors for success. More specifically:
 - a. What behaviors are required to reach the goals of learning activities?
 - b. What implications does a particular learning activity have for student roles?
 - c. How will the teacher prepare students to take on these roles?

School Wide Implementation

Teachers concerned with classroom management typically need help with two issues:

1. Preventing discipline problems.
2. Dealing with current discipline problems.

Creating a Classroom Management Plan

As a teacher you need to think ahead, without getting caught in daily classroom activities like taking attendance, resolving disputes, etc. These activities can eat into your lesson time, so always keep the bigger picture in mind and try to minimize time spent in nonteaching activities. To manage your classroom time well, create a **classroom management plan** of your own. This plan should include –

- Classroom rules that must be followed
- What should be the warning for each act of indiscipline
- Step to be taken if warning bears no fruit
- Criteria for escalating or de-escalating an issue

Unlike a lesson plan, which cannot be altered, a classroom management plan should be dynamic and take into account your progress with the syllabus thus far. For example, if you could not complete the targeted topics, plan to make up in the next class by cutting on other daily activities. Also, never plan for the full length of your classroom session. So, if you have a 40 minutes class, plan only for 30-35 minutes. You will spend a couple of minutes in reaching the class too!!

Advantages of Classroom Management

Teaching is 60% knowledge and 40% **class management**. If you are able to manage your class well, you will be a better teacher in the eyes of students, colleagues and school management. If that doesn't convince you, here are some other tangible **advantages of classroom management** –

- You will complete syllabus in time
- You will be able to inculcate discipline in the students
- Students will learn positive classroom manners
- You will have a better relationship with your students

A Disadvantage of Classroom Management

As teachers, we must look at both sides of the coin. Classroom management principles provide a very structured learning environment, which ensures that all learning goals are achieved. But that also leaves very little scope for open discussions. It has been proved beyond doubt that open discussions encourage creative and lateral thinking in students. They learn to apply their learning to real life scenarios.

You can turn this disadvantage of too-structured learning on its head by pacing the classes such that you have ample time to have open discussions too. For example, you can allocate one session after finishing a chapter to freewheeling discussions. But consider holding your class in the open or in large rooms so that you don't disrupt other classes around you.

Recommendations for Teachers

1. Do not use vague rules.
2. Do not have rules that you are unwilling to enforce.
3. Do not ignore student behaviours that violate school or classroom rules (they will not go away).
4. Do not engage in ambiguous or inconsistent treatment of misbehaviour.
5. Do not use overly harsh or embarrassing punishments or punishments delivered without accompanying support.
6. Do not use corporal punishment.
7. Avoid out-of-school suspension whenever possible.
8. Do not try to solve problems alone if you have serious concerns about a student. Refer to your school psychologist or special education professional.