

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: ROLEPLAYING IN THE EDUCATION SCENE

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In the ever-changing world of teaching methods, one approach that stands out is role-playing. This technique lets students dive into real-life situations, interact with others in a controlled setting, and better understand various subjects. As to what Glover (2014) puts it, role-playing is a method that allows students to explore practical situations by interacting with others in a managed environment. Students take on specific roles or scenarios, applying the lesson's essence in a practical way.

While role-playing has traditionally been linked to promoting social dynamics and collaboration, it has evolved into a versatile method for developing practical cognitive skills (Harvard University, 2013). According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary (2019), role-play includes actions like "acting out the role of," "representing in action," and "playing a role."

A study by Rashid and Qaisar (2017) found that role-playing effectively promotes critical thinking among students. Critical thinking, a crucial skill in today's world, is nurtured through immersive role-playing, where students analyze, evaluate, and respond to different scenarios.

In addition, children use role-playing as part of their fun activities from an early age. It is a part of classroom activities and is also used in the context of theatre, training in emergency groups, military branches and business organizations, psychology, role-playing games, entertainment, amusement, and original meaning according to Hitesh Bhasin (2020).

Moreover, various studies highlight the positive impact of role-playing on student engagement and confidence. Steube et al. (2023) state that role-playing not only increases participation but also boosts students' confidence. By taking on different roles and navigating diverse scenarios, students broaden their perspectives and develop a more comprehensive understanding of the subject.

Another notable benefit of using role-playing in teaching is the improvement of argumentation skills. Through role-play, students are encouraged to express and defend their viewpoints, enhancing their understanding of the subject and sharpening their ability to present coherent arguments. It also helps the children to boost their imagination and creativity in creating and presenting their roles.

Several studies also reveal the positive attitude of students toward learning through role-playing. As this technique employs interaction, it appeals to the learners; consequently, finding the learning process more engaging.

In conclusion, role-playing is a manifestation of the evolution of teaching methodologies, a holistic approach that meets the diverse needs of students. By incorporating role-playing in the classroom, educators create a more immersive, interactive, and effective educational experience, preparing students not just for exams but for the challenges and opportunities of the real world.

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