

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR – AN USEFUL TEACHING AID

It is a device meant for projecting a matter written on a transparent plastic sheet on a screen. It makes use of a bulb, lens and mirror placed in an order for projecting the matter. It is competing with the traditional blackboard in the classrooms and succeeded in doing so in many places due to its obvious advantages like ;

- Preparations of the material can be done well in advance
- These materials can be preserved for longer time .
- The surface area is limitless
- Teacher has the advantage of keeping eye contact with the students.
- No need to have a dark room[you can keep watch on students]
- No special training required to operate it.
- We can disclose the contents according to the need.
- Alterations / additions can be done during the presentation too.

The overhead projector can be used very effectively if we put some creative efforts like;

- I] The projector – screen must be placed in such a place that every student can see the projected matter clearly. The screen can be placed at a higher level behind the speaker either in the center or at one corner of the class room [if you are planning to use black

board along with it]

- II] All letters must be big enough to be read with ease by all. They should be at least 8-10 mm high. Not more than six words in one line .Not more than eight lines in one sheet.
- III] Progressive disclosure can be done as the lecture progresses by covering the contents, instead of projecting entire slide from the beginning. It is as good as a sequential presentation done on the blackboard or computer assisted presentation
- IV] A triangular or hexagonal pencil , card board or plastic arrow can be used as pointer which should not roll down from the stage or sheet. It is laid flat on the transparency and not waved around. .
- V] You can also add a table or a diagram during the lecture to make the information more interesting and lucid. But see to it that it should be relevant to the current topic.
- VI] Multiple transparencies can be super imposed over on one another so as to build the topic or to dissect the topic making it more informative and making the students to understand the concept of the topic.
- VII] Points or notes or hints can be clipped to the transparencies for easy reference during the lecture, thus we can avoid taking lecture

notes to the class. These clippings are not projected on the screen but are visible to the presenter for ready reference. lecture notes can also be written on regular paper and can be used for progressive disclosure of the contents of the transparency.

VIII] Opaque objects laid on the stage of the projector are silhouetted. Eg; a Smith Patterson nail can be placed on the drawn fracture neck femur when fracture fixation is being discussed giving the student the nature of procedure being done in such situations.

IX] X rays can be projected easily with O H P. The room needs to be darkened for that. It is essential to mask the bright areas of the X ray so as to retain the matter of interest. We must choose good quality radiographs ovoid dense , smudged , scratched and old X rays.

Plastic transparent sheets are available in the market in different thicknesses .Thicker sheets are more durable and are comfortable to handle and are costly too. Thin sheets get crumbled easily and have tendency to stick with each other. Sticking can be prevented by placing papers

between the transparencies. Make sure that you keep the sheets [pages marked] in order in a file and check them before going in to the class.

Special O H P marker pens of different colors including white are available. Best colors can used are blue , black and green , sometimes red can be used. Water soluble ink is easy to erase, while water indelible ink can be erased by Alcohol. White colored pen can be used for making small corrections like spelling, full points etc. The transparencies can mount on a cardboard frame or sticking tape making them easier to handle during superimpositioning or dissecting the contents.

Never leave the visual after the point has been made. It is important to put the light off and keep the fan running when you not projecting the transparency. Empty and bright screen is a distracter and projector gets overheated, this may reduce the lamps life, which is quite expensive.

Proper, innovative and creative use of Over Head Projector can make lecture classes more enjoyable, interesting and informative. Try once you may like it.

Compiled from various sources.