

## **AN EXAMPLE OF AN ACTION RESEARCH FOR CLASSROOM PURPOSE**

*Raju Shrestha*

*English Trainer*

*ETC-Tanahun*

### **Introduction**

Action research refers to teacher-initiated classroom investigation which seeks to increase the teacher's understanding of classroom teaching and learning, and to bring about change in classroom practices. Action research typically involves small-scale investigative projects in the teacher's own classroom, and consists of a number of phases which often recur in cycles. Therefore, it is also called a cyclical process. By and large, an action research project consists of the following four phases in its practice. They are:

- Planning
- Action ( Intervention)
- Observation
- Reflection

Action research if it is carried out in accordance with the essence of it, it functions as the tool for teacher professional development. It triggers to the teachers to investigate and explore classroom realities from different perspectives.

### **Statement of the problem**

Some of the students in speaking class never seem to take part in speaking activities". What kinds of activities involve all of the class in speaking?

### **Objective of the study**

The objective of this action research project was:

- to find out the better teaching speaking strategies which involve all the students.

### **Methodology**

The following methodology has been adopted to carry out this action research project.

**Planning:** An action research project work begins with a concern that a teacher has about his or her class. Or with an issue the teacher would like to explore and learn more about. For example, "*Some of the students in speaking class never seem to take part in speaking activities*". What kinds of activities involve all of the class in speaking? Now, I have to collect information about the identified issue. In order to further explore some aspects of my teaching regarding teaching speaking, first, it is necessary to collect information on what the current characteristics of my teaching are or what is happening in the classroom in relation to the issue in question. For

example, in relation to the specific question just identified, the following information could be collected. "What kinds of speaking activities involve all of the class in speaking?" In order to investigate this question, it will be necessary to determine what speaking activities I currently use and the type of interaction and language use they generate. I videotaped the class to collect genuine information. From the videotaped information what I found is I did not use materials which could arouse students' interests while teaching speaking. Similarly, I did not move around the class to see which students are participating. My activities were centered only in asking some oral questions. Now, I have planned to use the following types of activities to check students' participation in speaking class. They are presented in priority:

- Firstly, I will use picture description activity given in the text book.
- Secondly, I will collect a variety of pictures and photographs from different sources and use them.
- Thirdly, I will use real activities of telephone conversation, interviewing, story sharing.

**Intervention:** According to my plan I tried to use new strategy. For example, at the beginning I set the environment where students could talk and speak their ideas. I provided them clear oral instruction about the activities which they are going to practice. I showed pictures given in the text book and asked to speak their some sentences on the basis of shown pictures. I provided opportunity to all students.

**Observation:** When I used first strategy I observed its effects on students' behaviors. It could not satisfy me because all the students were not excited to share their innovative ideas about the pictures.

**Reflection:** I myself mirrored my new teaching way in the class. I could not get what I was expected on the part of students. Therefore, me as an English teacher wanted to improve my teaching styles as far as possible.

**Re-planning:** Once I got chance to read a very remarkable book written by Shiva Khera, that is, "You Can Win". I was highly influenced by the saying that "*Winners do not do the different things, but do the things differently.*" In the same way, I was also influenced by the saying that "*People are generally better persuaded by the reasons which they have discovered by themselves rather than the reasons which are in others' minds.*" Believing on such sayings, I always wanted to investigate, explore and use new strategies. Therefore, I further re-planned to use some more new strategies which are supposed to bring positive effects on my teaching speaking.

**Intervention:** I based my teaching on a variety of pictures and photographs. At this time, I demonstrated a variety of pictures and photographs to the students and asked to discuss and share their innovative ideas. At the same time, I moved in each corner of the class. I provided ample opportunity to all students to share their ideas about the pictures and photographs. Similarly, I inspired and encouraged to each student to speak. I also facilitated to some needy students who felt difficult to speak. If necessary, I also provided the suggestions for strengthening or consolidating their understanding.

**Observation:** From my second observation of second effort what I found is students were found:

- As active participants in speaking class.

- They all seemed to be active, enthusiastic and very curious to speak.
- They tried to speak out their original sentences.
- They also discussed and shared their ideas with their close friends.

**Reflection:** On the basis of my second time's observation I got much satisfaction. I thought myself that we teachers need to try to use something new in our classroom. From this kind of effort we experience something rewarding and worthwhile. From this kind of reflection what I have understood is that we teachers have to do a lot of things in the classroom for the welfare of students. Similarly, what I also believed is this kind of experimentation of different strategies for the improvement or betterment should be a continuous process then only we could see our professional development there.