



## Introduction of Innovative Methods of Teaching for Higher Education in Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

Education is a light that shows mankind the right direction and which is one of the areas that experience phenomenal changes as a result of advancement and use of information technology by exploring different methods in teaching and learning in higher Institutions. The teaching methods employed by teachers determine the extent to which students perform better in the classrooms. Thus, the study discussed few of these Innovative teaching methods with the advantages and disadvantages. These innovative teaching methods included; collaboration method, virtual reality method and Smart board method. Hence, the study concluded that the innovative teaching methods enhances students' active participation and better understanding as it is learner's - centered being incorporated into the conventional teaching method.

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### INTRODUCTION

Teaching is the process of imparting knowledge, skills and values to others. It involves the sharing of information and ideas to facilitate learning and understanding. Teaching is a process which usually takes place in a variety of settings, including schools (classroom situation), Universities, workplaces and informal settings. It is more of formal process; the teacher puts efforts to make the students understand his teaching. This is successful only if students are able to grasp it fully Walter and Rangas (2014). Teaching can be defined as a systematic process of transmitting knowledge, attitudes and skills in accordance with professional principles Isa, Mamman, Badar and Bala (2020).

In contrast to student-centered approaches, many teaching practitioners in the traditional approach frequently use teacher-centered ways to convey knowledge to learners. Until today, questions about effectiveness of teaching methods on students learning have consistently raised considerable interest in the thematic field of education research Mamman, Badar and Bala (2020). Ogide in Mamman, Badar and Bala (2020) states that in our tertiary institutions, teachers use mainly the lecture method which is a teacher – centered method

and the implication is that learners are passive and learning tends to be superficial.

Teaching methods are very effective on students' educational progress, motivating and satisfying them on developing and growing their character and creativity Ray and Sikdar (2023). A good teaching method enables a student to question his preconceptions; it motivates him to learn more no matter how difficult situations are put in front of him. It makes him a person who sees himself responsible for finding problems, evaluating them thoroughly and then answering the solutions through his mindset Saeed, Asghar Malik and Masri (2021). To learn any concrete issue, only one method is not enough and that is why the combination of different methods are used by teachers during the teaching process.

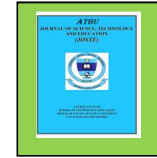
The teacher tries to provide the best of his knowledge and that is why the selection of teaching method becomes important automatically, not to deliver the knowledge but to avoid the distraction of learning objectives. The innovative methods of teaching are not only important for the whole country because effective teaching delivers effective knowledge and the knowledge if delivered through the appropriate method, provides the learners who have the expertise to empower their country,

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people and governance Saeed, Asgar, Malik and Masri (2021).

### Concept of Teaching Method

Method encompasses an array of approaches, techniques, and procedures utilized by individuals to accomplish specific tasks or objectives. In the context of education, method extends beyond mere teaching style to encompass the comprehensive plan for organizing and delivering instructional content or learning materials in a structured manner. As emphasized by N.T (2015), method within the learning environment embodies a systematic framework adopted by educators to enhance the efficacy and outcome of teaching activities.

Moreover, method encompasses various elements beyond instructional techniques, including the overall learning environment such as setting, arrangement, ambience, tone, and approach. Bakare (2011) suggests that method encompasses the orchestration of these elements to facilitate effective educational activities.

Teaching methods, in particular, denote a systematic sequence of interconnected steps undertaken by both educators and learners to achieve predetermined learning objectives outlined in curricular or syllabi frameworks. These methods involve purposeful activities designed to facilitate the flow of information between teachers and students. As highlighted by Olatunde and Ogunode (2021), the study of teaching methods holds significance as they exert influence across cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains of learning.

In essence, method in education embodies a multifaceted concept that encompasses the structured arrangement of individuals and resources, instructional techniques, and the dynamic interaction between educators and learners, all aimed at fostering effective teaching and learning experiences.

### Factors Determining Teaching Methods

Factors determining teaching methods encompass a range of elements that influence instructional decisions and strategies employed by educators. These factors may include:

1. **Learning Objectives and Curriculum Requirements:**

Teaching methods are often tailored to meet specific learning objectives outlined in curricular standards or syllabi (Olatunde & Ogunode, 2021).

2. **Student Characteristics and Needs:** Variations in students' abilities, learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and prior knowledge necessitate the selection of appropriate teaching methods (Clark & Martin, 2018).

3. **Subject Matter and Content Complexity:** The nature and complexity of the content being taught may dictate the choice of instructional methods, with some topics requiring more interactive or hands-on approaches (Glickman & Sullivan, 2019).

4. **Available Resources and Technology:** Access to resources such as textbooks, multimedia tools, and technology infrastructure influences the feasibility and effectiveness of different teaching methods (Jones & Brown, 2020).

5. **Classroom Environment and Physical Space:** The layout, size, and facilities of the classroom impact the selection and implementation of teaching methods, with some methods being more suitable for certain spatial configurations (Garcia & Martinez, 2018).

6. **Educator Expertise and Preferences:** Teachers' knowledge, skills, experiences, and instructional preferences play a crucial role in determining the choice of teaching methods (Roberts & Johnson, 2019).

7. **Time Constraints and Scheduling:** Considerations of time available for instruction, including class periods, academic calendar, and pacing requirements, may influence the selection of teaching methods (Wang & Smith, 2017).

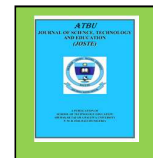
8. **Assessment and Evaluation Practices:** The methods used to assess student learning, such as quizzes, projects, or exams, can shape the selection of teaching

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- methods that align with assessment goals (Johnson et al., 2020).
- 9. Educational Policies and Standards:** Mandates from educational authorities or governing bodies may prescribe certain teaching approaches or methodologies, influencing educators' choices (Karakuş, 2021).
  - 10. Pedagogical Trends and Research:** Insights from educational research and emerging pedagogical trends inform the selection and adaptation of teaching methods to enhance instructional effectiveness (Smith, 2019).

### Effective Teaching Methods for Higher Education

Effective methods of teaching in higher education institutions encompass a variety of approaches that foster active engagement, critical thinking, and deep learning among students. Some of these methods, supported by research, include:

- 1. Active Learning:** Encouraging students to actively participate in the learning process through discussions, group activities, case studies, problem-solving tasks, and hands-on experiments (Freeman et al., 2014).
- 2. Flipped Classroom:** Inverting the traditional lecture-based model by having students engage with course materials outside of class (e.g., through pre-recorded lectures or readings) and using class time for interactive discussions, problem-solving, and application activities (Talbert, 2017).
- 3. Problem-Based Learning (PBL):** Presenting students with authentic, complex problems relevant to the discipline, which they work collaboratively to solve, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and disciplinary knowledge acquisition (Savery & Duffy, 1995).
- 4. Project-Based Learning (PrBL):** Organizing learning around the completion of projects that require students to investigate, analyze, and synthesize information to solve real-world problems, promoting deeper understanding and application of concepts (Larmer et al., 2015).
- 5. Collaborative Learning:** Facilitating group work and cooperative activities where students work together to achieve common learning goals, fostering communication skills, teamwork, and shared understanding (Springer et al., 1999).
- 6. Inquiry-Based Learning:** Guiding students to ask questions, explore topics, and discover knowledge through guided investigation and research, promoting curiosity, autonomy, and critical thinking (Harlen, 2015).
- 7. Simulation and Gaming:** Using simulated environments or educational games to immerse students in realistic scenarios where they can apply theoretical concepts, develop decision-making skills, and experience consequences of their actions (Gentry et al., 2019).
- 8. Peer Instruction:** Incorporating peer-to-peer teaching and learning activities, such as peer review, peer tutoring, and peer-led discussions, to enhance understanding, collaboration, and social learning (Crouch & Mazur, 2001).
- 9. Technology-Enhanced Learning:** Integrating educational technologies, such as online platforms, multimedia resources, virtual laboratories, and interactive simulations, to facilitate personalized learning experiences and enhance engagement (Means et al., 2010).
- 10. Service Learning:** Combining academic instruction with community service experiences, allowing students to apply course content to real-world issues while fostering civic responsibility and social awareness (Eyler & Giles, 1999).

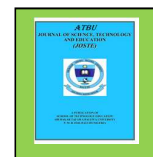
These effective teaching methods in higher education are supported by research and have been shown to enhance student

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engagement, learning outcomes, and overall satisfaction with the learning experience.

## CONCLUSION

The findings of this study underscore the superiority of new teaching methods over conventional approaches, which often render learners passive in the classroom. It is evident that these innovative teaching methods prioritize learner-centered approaches, fostering active engagement and enhancing comprehension. Consequently, the conclusion drawn from this study firmly advocates for the adoption and integration of new teaching methods to optimize learning outcomes and cultivate a dynamic educational environment conducive to student success.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusion of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. **Promote Professional Development:** Implement regular training sessions and workshops for educators to familiarize them with new teaching methods, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to effectively integrate these approaches into their teaching practices.
2. **Encourage Collaborative Learning Environments:** Foster collaborative learning environments where students actively engage with each other and with the content through group discussions, problem-solving tasks, and peer-to-peer interactions, promoting deeper understanding and critical thinking skills.
3. **Integrate Technology:** Embrace technology-enhanced learning tools and platforms to supplement traditional teaching methods, providing students with access to multimedia resources, virtual simulations, and online collaboration tools to enhance engagement and learning outcomes.
4. **Support Innovative Pedagogical Approaches:** Encourage experimentation with innovative

pedagogical approaches such as flipped classrooms, problem-based learning, and inquiry-based learning, providing educators with the flexibility to adapt teaching methods to meet the diverse needs and preferences of their students.

5. **Foster Student-Centered Learning:** Shift the focus of instruction from teacher-centered to student-centered approaches, where learners take an active role in their own education, fostering autonomy, self-directed learning, and intrinsic motivation.
6. **Continuous Evaluation and Feedback:** Establish mechanisms for ongoing evaluation and feedback to assess the effectiveness of new teaching methods, soliciting input from both educators and students to identify areas for improvement and refinement, ensuring that teaching practices remain responsive to evolving educational needs and contexts.

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