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INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING VOCATIONAL, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION: CLASSROOM PRACTICES



PROF. JOSEPHINE N. OKOLI

**INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING
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MATHEMATICS EDUCATION: CLASSROOM
PRACTICES**

**EDITOR
PROF. JOSEPHINE N. OKOLI**

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PREFACE

The electronic book (e-book) acknowledges that traditional methods in Vocational, Science, Technology and Mathematics Education: Classroom Practices may not be sufficient to equip students with the necessary skills for a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Therefore, it advocates for the adoption of Innovative teaching approaches that promote a more dynamic and effective learning experience.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

SECTION ONE

EMPIRICAL RESEARCH WORKS

Chapter 1

Effects of constructivism based instructional method on students' achievement in financial accounting in senior secondary schools in Anambra State

Chika M. Okonkwo

1

Chapter 2

Innovative tools for effective teaching of physical and health education in colleges of education in Anambra State.

Anaekwe Grace U., Obiefuna Grace C.

8

Chapter 3

Effect of framing instructional strategy on students' motivation and academic achievement in mathematics in Oron Local government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

Ekpenyong Effiong Ibok, Idaka Etta Idaka, Iwuala Patricia Ebere Chilebe

13

Chapter 4

Influence of demographic variables as a determinant principal administrative practices in Enugu State Nigeria

Nweke Phina Amaka, Emmanuel Chukwunwike Onyekwe, Iwenzu

Ngozi Caroline Uloaku Victoria Egbuchiwe

22

SECTION TWO

THEORETICAL FRAMWORKS

Chapter 5

Role of smart green schools in the development of environmental education for sustainable development

Regina Ijeamasi Enebechi

31

Chapter 6

Budgeting, Savings and Investment Pedagogy: An Imperative for Graduate Survival and Sustainability

Ehumadu Rophina Ifeyinwa Chima

41

Chapter 7

Inquiry-Based Learning in Mathematics Classroom: A Guide for Teachers

Ogoke Chinemeze James, Tina Uchenna Otumegwu, Achugammonu Pius C

49

Chapter 8

Enhancing Acquisition of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Skills in Early Childhood Education

Obiefuna Grace C, Nwankwo Glory U.

57

Chapter 9

Innovative Teaching Strategies in Basic Science in the 21st Century Classroom Settings

Suleiman Dambai Mohammed, Perekeme Peresuodes

67

Chapter 10

Brainstorming: An Innovative Tool for Enhancing Teaching and Learning of Biology in Schools

Ifeoma B. Okafor, Chukwuma C. Ekechukwu, Caroline I. Okorie

74

Chapter 11

Innovative Strategies for Teaching Mathematics Education in Nigeria: Classroom Practices

Tukur Madu Yemi

80

Chapter 12	
Innovative Strategies for Enhancing Mathematical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills in Nigerian Classrooms	
Emmanuel C. Nwigboji, Uzoamaka Chimuanya Okafor-Agbala	85
Chapter 13	
Innovative Instructional Strategies in Science Teaching and Learning	
John B. Moses, Tamaraudeinyefa Tobi	98
Chapter 14	
Instructional Approach and Proofs of Pythagora's Theorem for Problem-Solving	
Madu Cletus Ifeanyi, Abur Cletus Terhemba	109
Chapter 15	
Building a Strong Foundation in Chemistry for Beginners	
Obikezie Maxwell Chukwnazo	117
Chapter 16	
Hands-On, Minds-On: Emerging Practices in Classroom Robotics Education	
Fadip Audu Nannim, Moeketsi Mosia	124
Chapter 17	
From Support to Self-Reliance: Instructional Scaffolding Strategies for 21 st Century Science Classrooms	
Maria Tsakeni, Stephen Chinedu Nwafor	134
Chapter 18	
Think-Pair-Share Comparative Teaching and Learning Strategy	
Mohammed Idris, Abel Idoko Onoja	146
Chapter 19	
Multiple Intelligence Strategies: An Innovative Instructional Approach to Teaching and Learning in the 21 st Century	
JohnBosco O.C. Okekeokosisi, MaryAnn Chigozie Ofordum, Odunayo Abigael Bamisebi	152
Chapter 20	
Fostering Critical Thinking and Creativity through Interdisciplinary Teaching in the 21st Century Classroom	
Nkiru N.C. Samuel	157
Chapter 21	
Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Basic Science: The Challenges and Benefits	
Melody Otimize Obili, Nneka R. Nnorom	168
Chapter 22	
Classroom-Based Innovative Teaching Strategies in Agricultural Education	
Anyachor Charles N.	177
Chapter 23	
E-Learning Platforms for Continuous Professional Development	
Chikendu Rebecca Ebonam, Ekoyo Destiny Onyebuchi	182

FOREWORD

This book entitled “**Innovative Strategies for Teaching Vocational, Science, Technology and Mathematics Education: Classroom Practices**”, is a book of readings on various innovative classroom pedagogies. It is a welcome literature for Education System and a very important resource book for teachers who are functioning in the disciplines of Vocational Education, Science, Mathematics and Technology education and training. It is a compendium of most of the **active learning strategies** aimed at producing graduates who have been prepared for adaptation to the conditions of the 21st century world of fluidity. The 21st century world accommodates soft skills which the individual can edit from time to time as the conditions of socio-cultural, economic and technological environments change constantly and uncontrollably. A century in which cross-border job openings are important means of employment, a century where attitude is more important than subject-based excellence, a century where collaboration, innovation and creativity are irreducible demands by employers of labour, a century where adaptive skills are critical for entrepreneurship, creation of jobs and wealth.

All categories of teachers at all levels of education would find this resource book interesting and professionally helpful for their teaching practice. Because conditions of the modern world are in perpetual flux, teachers have to re-skill in order to produce adaptive graduates and the era of lecture method is literally over. It is these modern innovative instructional strategies that would enable teachers to produce such graduates who would survive and then succeed in the 21st century global economy.

This book would also be very useful to researchers and innovators in the envisioned pedagogic paradigm shift of this era. I therefore, proudly recommend this book, a compendium on innovative pedagogies to all classes of teachers and researchers on pedagogies and curriculum reforms in the modern era.

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to educators in the world

CHAPTER 19

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE STRATEGIES: AN INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

This study explores the application of Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple intelligence strategies (MIS) in teaching –learning to improve students' understanding and engagement. It focuses on the integration of diverse learning styles and intelligence into classroom activities, emphasizing the importance of individual instruction and assessing students' knowledge through multiple modalities. The researchers equally x-rayed the features of MIS classroom and the reason of its application in teaching and learning. The study recommends among others that diversification of activities to cater to different learning styles should be applied by teachers during instruction. Integration of music, movement and nature-based learning experiences can further enhance various intelligences.

Keywords: Multiple Intelligence Strategies (MIS), Innovative Instructional Approach, Teaching and Learning, 21ST Century

Introduction

Education has been identified as one of the public sectors mostly contribute to human development and advancement. It gives individuals the tools they need to participate in social and economic life (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2010). Ezra, Inti and Hassan (2025) refers education as the most important agent of change as it contributes immensely to the overall development of any nation. It is no longer just a pathway to opportunity and success but it is a pre requisite for human existence, self-reliance and productive citizens that can transform things around the environment for societal use. It is therefore necessary to give education a solid foundation through effective and efficient teaching and learning, making available instructional materials for teaching and learning, ensuring conducive environment for learning and encouraging learners to apply their different intelligence in learning situation. When education is equipped with and conveyed these opportunities and materials using appropriate teaching strategies, students' motivation, achievement, interest, knowledge, skills, attitude and values could be enhanced.

Instructional strategies (IS) can be referred to as methods teachers use to effectively engage students and impart knowledge, aiming to create an effective learning environment. Edutech (2024) describes instructional strategies as instructional materials and procedures that enables students to achieve the learning outcomes. Mar (2025) added that IS are series of actions with a definable outcome relative to student thinking or learning and a definable beginning and end. These actions can range from teacher-led approaches like lectures and demonstrations to student-centered activities like multiple intelligence strategies (MIS). The goal is to help students not just passively acquire knowledge, skills and values but actively participate in the learning process, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The term intelligence is commonly used to describe intelligent quotient (IQ). Various authors conceived that abstract reasoning and problem solving were aspects of intelligence. Generally, psychologists tend to agree that intelligence embraces ability to learn, acquire knowledge and ability to adapt to new environment or situations. Hence, intelligence can be referred to as an ability to acquire knowledge and skills (already learnt) and ability to apply the acquired knowledge and skills for sustainable development. According to Karaduman and Cihan (2018), it is the capacity to solve problems through training learners in different areas of intelligence or to fashion out

products – training programmes that are valued in one or more cultural settings. Nevertheless, there are differences in individual perception of the world; and as such individuals acquire information differently. This entails that individuals acquire information and solve problems through various avenues. This underscores the centrality of passing information to individual learners in teaching / learning process; this calls for consideration of multiple intelligence –strategies.

Multiple intelligence- strategies (MIS) can be described as how individuals learn and process information in different ways. Okekeokosisi (2024) defined MIS as teaching-learning activities that describe different ways learners learn, acquire information-knowledge and solve their problems through the acquired knowledge and skills. It is teaching-learning activities that gives great consideration to individual differences among learners. Samuel and Abba (2020) viewed MIS as a framework that helps teachers design instruction based activities and provide varied learning experiences tailored for each learner. This implies that MIS embraces instructional techniques that guide, direct, engage, motivate and foster learners' preference to learning. Al-Nakhbi and Barza, (2016) explained that MIS challenges students to understand the world around them and create connections between their lives and their interest. Thus, MIS could be used within the classroom in order to promote learners' achievement and interest in school subjects. It implies that teachers require to provide learners with varied opportunities in the learning environment that could usher in learners' zeal and portray learners' potentials.

The use of MIS in teaching is based on intelligence quotient (IQ) (traditional notion of intelligence) learning theory propounded by Howard Gardner in 1983. Gardner's IQ learning theory states that learners are not born with all of the intelligences they will ever have. This theory challenged the traditional notion that there is one single type of intelligence sometimes known as "g" for general intelligence that only focuses on cognitive abilities. The theory further emphasized on how learners possess different kinds of minds for learning, remembering, performing and understanding in different ways. The theory explained how learners' academic achievement and interest can be improved through multiple intelligence-strategies (MIS) that guide, direct, engage, stimulate and prompt learners during instructional delivery.

The multiple intelligence-strategies as outlined by Gardner (1999) include; Linguistic intelligence, logical mathematical intelligence (Number and reasoning smart), musical intelligence, bodily intelligence, spatial intelligence (Visual), interpersonal intelligence, intrapersonal intelligence (Self-smart), naturalist intelligence, tactile or Kinesthetic intelligence. The nine intelligences of individuals rarely operate independently. They portray how individual natural talents operate in the learning process. Gardner's theory of intelligent quotient has implication for teaching and learning. It implies that teachers require to apply multiple intelligence-strategies in classroom environment. The implication for teachers is to present lesson using a wide variety of instructional techniques that involve active learning. The theory challenges the teachers to create learning environment that offer students opportunity for self-reflection, self-evaluation, group activities and physical activities, so as to cater for diverse learning preferences of the students.

Howard Gardner propounded humanistic theory in 1983. The theory states that learners are not born with all of the intelligence they will ever have. This theory challenged the traditional notion that there is one single type of intelligence sometimes known as "g" for general intelligence that only focuses on cognitive abilities. The theory further emphasized on how learners possess different kinds of minds and therefore learn, remember, perform and understand in different ways. The theory explained how learners' academic achievement and interest can be improved through multiple intelligence-base activities (MIBA) that guide, direct, engage, stimulate and prompt learners during instructional delivery. Such MIBAs as outlined by Gardner (1999) are as follows; linguistic intelligence (Verbal), logical mathematical intelligence (Number and reasoning smart), musical intelligence, bodily intelligence, spatial intelligence (Visual), interpersonal intelligence, intrapersonal intelligence (Self-smart), naturalist intelligence,

Gardner attributed the theory's origin to Behaviorism, Cognitive and Constructivism. This entails that learner's development cannot be isolated from social and cultural activities. The learners' are

seen as central in the learning process. The learners are considered as those that come to the learning environment with different learning experiences. Behaviorism, cognitivism, and constructivism are three prominent learning theories that try to develop efficient learning programs and study the psychology involved in an individual's ability to learn. The three theories lay emphasis on stimulating learners to commitment, desired behaviour, providing direction to behaviour and underlining the tendency to prevail. The theories uphold that variety of activities motivate learning. The activities or factors motivate individual learners through identifying and satisfying individual needs, desires and the aims pursued to satisfy these desires.

Generally, the individual learners must be sufficiently aroused to have interest, have a clear focus on what to be achieved and willing to be committed to the task, realize their aim in order to achieve goals. Simulation like imitation of real world or real life play and computer software generate activities and provide context for dialogue, class interaction, easy production of knowledge and desired behaviour both in the school and in the society. The theory provides learners with the following experiences; scaffolding, problem-solving, adaptation and collaboration.

Scaffolding and problem-solving spur learners to learn, promote learners' interaction with their peers, exchange ideas, lead to knowledge discovery, development of skills and attitudes. Similarly, adaptation provides room for adjustment, foster transformation of prior experiences into meaningful information that leads to in-depth knowledge. Also, collaboration foster team work and peer interaction.

Gardner's learning theory has great implication for learning/teaching. It focuses on the particular intelligence of individual learners which the teacher requires to take cognizance of and encourage each to develop their abilities. The theory challenges teachers to provide basis for variety of activities in teaching-learning process. Furthermore, the theory generates the idea that multiple intelligence activities could promote peer interactivity, increase learning experiences, discovery of new knowledge through different activities and prompts. The implication is that teachers require to provide different opportunities of learning experiences to accommodate individual learners. This provides motivating factors to explore the usefulness of multiple intelligence strategies on students' learning outcome.

Gardner's theory centered on identifying and establishing learners' ability in order to cope with the learning situation. This could help learners understand new concepts or skills by utilizing their preferred learning approach.

Statement of the Problem

Teaching and learning in our recent times does not involve inclusive and engagement of learners during instructional process. Individual learning preferences, abilities and learning styles are not catered for. This resulted to high rate of social vices in the world, high rate of unemployment in Nigeria and unskilled graduates from Nigeria institutions of learning. Thus, this paper seeks to x-ray the importance of multiple intelligence strategies (MIS) when applied in the teaching and learning.

Objectives of the Study

Research on multiple intelligence strategies (MIS) aims to understand how incorporating these strategies impacts student learning, engagement, motivation and academic achievement. Specifically, the research seeks to identify how MIS could improve diverse learning styles, promote student agency, and enhance the teaching-learning process.

Multiple intelligence strategies and their features

Multiple intelligence strategies are anchored in variety of intelligences by which individual learners function. The activities include observation, oral expression, analytical, creative and practical thinking activities as well as metacognitive processes (Rajadurai and Ganapathy, 2023). Metacognitive processes go beyond critical thinking exercises. The processes of metacognitive among others involve monitoring learner's own thinking and reflecting on the cultural context concerning its value in a culture.

Different activities are encouraged in the application of multiple intelligence setting. Verbal skills are needed to accommodate learners that fall under linguistic intelligence. Learners are engaged in discussion and story-telling. Mathematical skills like learners playing games of logic, creating situation for learners to think, construct, understand and discover new information. Also, counting objects, experimentation in the laboratories, field trips, operation and exhibition of electronics – computers are considered. Learners in musical skills are provided opportunity to listen to music and play musical instrument, sing and compose songs. Making charts, drawing and observation of variety of instructional materials give spatial intelligence learners opportunity to learn. Practical participation in learning exercises offer opportunity to learners who fall under bodily intelligence. Interpersonal skills learners gain knowledge through active participation in group activities like discussion, games and the like. The category of learners under intrapersonal skills are accommodated in the learning process by giving learners opportunity to reflect on their work, interpret their activities and encourage them to have hobbies and interest through appreciation. Activities that accommodate the intrapersonal skilled learners also include giving them sensitive feedback and engaging them to record their ideas and experiences.

Learners under natural skills are exposed to field trip. They can fashion materialistic learning centre in a corner of the classroom (nature corner). The learners can engage in naturalist activities like nature study, collect natural objects and classify them. Multiple intelligence based activities implies that learners personality differences are recognized in the learning process. Learning opportunities are offered to all learners who are proficient in different domains related to learning computer studies. The implication is for computer studies teachers to employ teaching method that gears towards generating individual learner's skills.

Why application of multiple intelligence strategies (MIS) in classroom

Using the theory of multiple intelligence strategies (MIS) in the classroom offers;

- **Diverse learning pathways:** The theory of MIS recognizes that people learn in different ways and have different strengths. By incorporating the eight intelligences (linguistic, logical – mathematical, visual-spatial, bodily – kinesthetic, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalistic), teachers can present information and activities in a variety of formats, reaching students who might not thrive in traditional learning methods.
- **Inclusive and Engaging learning:** By understanding and utilizing different intelligences, teachers can create a more inclusive and engaging learning environment where all students feel valued and can contribute their unique strengths. This can lead to increased motivation, engagement and a deeper understanding of the learnt concept.
- **Differentiated instruction:** Multiple-intelligence theory encourages teachers to differentiate instruction, meaning they can modify lessons, assignments and assessments to meet the individual needs of their students. This allows students to learn and demonstrate their understanding in ways that best suit their strengths and learning styles.
- **Enhanced understanding and retention:** When learning is tailored to different intelligences, students are more likely to engage with the material and develop a deeper understanding of the concepts. This can lead to improved retention and amore positive learning experience.
- **Developing diverse skills:** By encouraging students to explore and develop their various intelligences, teachers can help them develop a broader range of skills and talents, which can be beneficial for their academic and personal lives.
- **Preparation for the future:** A diverse and adaptable education that caters to multiple-intelligences prepares students for a world that values a range of skills and abilities. The ability to learn in different ways and apply knowledge in various contexts is crucial for success in today's complex and ever-changing world

Way Forward

For effective implementation of MIS in the classroom, teachers should;

1. Diversify activities to cater to different learning styles
2. Encourage collaboration for interpersonal intelligence
3. Utilize visual and manipulatable resources.
4. Integrating music, movement and nature-based learning experiences can further enhance various intelligences
5. Promoting reflection and self-awareness through journaling and individual activities can foster intrapersonal intelligence

Conclusion

In using MIS in teaching and learning, it can significantly enhance student achievement and engagement through recognizing and catering to diverse learning styles. MIS creates a more inclusive and effective learning environment. This strategies not only improves students learning but also fosters motivation, self-awareness and a deeper understanding of how they learn best.

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