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Review

Repositioning Secondary School Education through Innovation in the Classroom

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Abstract: *Education is the foundation of our economy. What and how we learn in school determines who we become as individuals and our success through our lives. It informs how we solve problems, how we work with others, and how we look at the world around us. In today's innovation economy, education becomes even more important for developing the next generation of innovators and creative thinkers. Innovations in education are intended to raise productivity and efficiency of learning and improve learning quality. Education should not only be comprehensive, sustainable, and superb, but must continuously evolve to meet the challenges of the fast changing and unpredictable globalized world. This evolution must be systematic consistent, and scalable, therefore school teachers, college professors, administrators, researchers, and policy makers are expected to innovate the theory and practice of teaching and learning as well as all other aspects of this complex organization to ensure quality preparation of all students to life and work.*

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INTRODUCTION

Education being a social institution serving the needs of society is indispensable for society to survive and thrive. It should not only be comprehensive, sustainable and superb but must continuously evolve to meet the challenges of the fast changing and unpredictable globalized world, This evolution must be systematic, consistent and scalable, therefore school teachers, college professors, administrators, researchers and policy makers are expected to innovate the theory and practice of teaching and learning as well as other aspects of this complex organization to ensure quality preparation of all students to life and work. For an individual, nation and human to survive and progress, innovation and education are essential. Innovations in

education are of great importance because education plays a crucial role in creating a sustainable future (Holfiman et al, 2012). Innovation therefore is to be regarded as an instrument of necessary and positive change. Any human activity such as industrial business, or educational needs consistent innovation to remain sustainable. The need for educational innovations has become acute. It is widely believed that countries social and economic well being to an ever greater extent on the quality of their citizens education. Today's educational systems are required to be both effective and efficient or reach the goals set for them while making the best use of available resources (Cornali,2012). According to an organization for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD) report, the pressure to increase equity and improve educational outcomes to students is growing around the world (Vieluf et al ,2012).

In Nigerian educational system, education at all level critically needs renewal. Secondary education and others need to change. It needs more innovation (Chukwuka ,2015). Innovation in education encourages teachers and students to explore, research, and use all the tools to uncover something new. Innovation improves education because it compels students to use a higher level of thinking to solve problems. A collaborative classroom encourages innovation by pushing students to work with others who may be different from them either in their beliefs, behaviour or background. Collaboration in the classroom encourages discussion, which is the father of all innovation. Secondary education is the education children receive after primary education and before the tertiary stage. Secondary education is very crucial for the development of the nation. It is meant to prepare the young adult for the purposeful organization of oneself, for achieving maximally one's potentials to be able to withstand the complexities of living in the environment. It is also meant to prepare young adults for further training and education which would lead to the acquisition of some specialized skills needed in different specific operations within the society.

Aderounmu et al (2015) over the years, there is a rampant cry by the general populace in the country on the issue of low standard and student achievement more, especially in secondary schools. The broad aims for secondary educations are:

- a) Preparing for useful living within the society.
- b) Preparation for higher education (National Policy on Education 2008-2018)

It terms of adequate funding of secondary education in Kogi East senatorial district. There has been tremendous increase in establishment of secondary schools and enrollment of students as well. This increase has necessitated a greater need for adequate funding of schools for the provision and maintenance of school facilities. Unfortunately, most of the senior secondary schools in Nigeria are poorly funded. This makes it impossible for secondary schools to realize the aims for which they have been established. Taiwo (2016) notes that the physical environment in most secondary schools in Nigeria is literacy, aggressive due to poor funding and maintenance of school facilities. However, Nigerian secondary schools have undergone tremendous changes since independence. These includes changes in the number of institutional programme due to the general changes of the entire education system from 7-3-4, 7-3=5, 6-3-3-4 and now 9-3-4 system. Aremu (2015) stated that the gross funding of education in Nigeria led to deterioration in institutional facilities and service

Concept of Innovative Classroom.

An innovative classroom includes teaching strategies that are always evolving, and are often different from day to day (Gere, 2016).

Characteristics of an Innovative Classroom.

Adams et al (2016) identified some major characteristics of innovation in the classroom, thus: Reflection-Innovative classrooms engage in constant reflection and inquisition. They think about what is working as a class and independently, and what is not. This can be uncomfortable but for a class to be constantly evolving and innovating, this process must occur. Furthermore, an innovative classroom will always be asking itself "what if". Invite an encourage students to ask questions.

Constant Learning- An innovative classroom never stops to catch its breath. Every event is seen as a teachable moment and students will benefit from a fast paced ever changing environment.

Creativity-A creative classroom not only comes up with unique solutions to everyday problems, but it also develops the responses necessary to deal with future challenges. It fosters innovation by encouraging students to think outside of the box.

Connection-An educator must always know his/her students as well as the trends that are emerging in the profession. He/she will seek out new techniques and technologies and encourage students to do same.

Principles and Routines- The teacher will encourage consistency and diligence by establishing hard and fast guidelines for how the day is run.

Problem Finding- This actively seek out problems in the classroom, in their learning and in the world. Innovation starts with a question, not with an answer, New technologies and understandings can only be developed when students begin to ask questions.

Collaboration- This encourages innovation by pushing students to work with others who may be different from them, either in their beliefs, behaviour, or background. Collaboration in the classroom encourages discussion on which is the father of all innovation.

Variation-An innovative classroom includes teaching strategies that are always evolving and are different from day to day.

Goal Setting- Innovative learning will set goals for themselves and crush them. These goals may be large or small, or ideally contain some aspects of both types but should guide learners towards innovation.

Opportunities for Revision-Not only are innovative learners risk takers but they also recognize that nothing is perfect. An innovative classroom is resilient and pushes students and teachers to always be changing, adapting, and improving. Innovative learners will look to themselves and others to better every aspect of their performance. These ten characteristics are important in establishing an innovative classroom. It is important for teachers to be aware of them and to incorporate an action to help develop each characteristic on a daily basis.

Innovative Teaching Strategies to make Teaching more interesting.

Cross over teaching; teaching through smart boards; teaching through flipping classrooms; teaching through collaboration; teaching through virtual reality, and teaching through 3D printing technology.

Cross-over Teaching-Learning happens in an informal setting such as after school learning clubs, exhibitions,

excursions and so on. The teacher can link the educational context with the experiences students have. The teaching is further enhanced and deepened by adding questions related to the subject. Students can add to class through assignment related to trip/ excursions.

Teaching through smart boards- Smart boards are effective way to bring the classroom to life while helping students experience a deeper level of engagement and understanding. This is done by making the course content interactive and visual.

Teaching through flipping classrooms-In this technique, students are made active participants of the learning process by passing the onus of learning on them. It requires the teachers to relegate to the role of resource providers and the students take responsibility of gathering information, concepts.

Teaching through collaboration-Teachers can help foster the skill in the classroom by allowing students to learn, study and work in groups, It also teaches students empathy negotiation skills, teamwork and problem-solving.

Teaching through virtual Reality- Virtual Reality technology offers students a valuable opportunity to learn in an immersive manner that creates a lasting impression

on their minds. It makes learning fun and makes the students return the material for a longer time.

Teaching through 3D printing technology- This method is fast gaining global acceptance, especially in higher educational institutions where 3D printers are used to create prototypes and make complex concepts easy to understand. In the lower level classrooms, teachers can use the 3D printers to teach content that was previously taught via textbooks, thus helping students gain a better understanding of the concept.

Teaching through cloud computing- This can be accessed by the students from the comfort of their homes, whenever needed bringing the classroom back to the students with the click of the mouse. It also ensures that students who have missed class either for illness or any other reason stay updated at all times. It eliminates the need for lugging around heavy textbooks and allows students to learn at a time, place and pace that they are comfortable with.

Innovative Classroom ideas to Promote Creativity.

Understand and foster the creative environment- As your student's guide to creativity, you are in a position to cultivate it encouragement, rewards and scaffolding skill with structured approaches. For example, discussions, have when encouraging creative discussions, do not just facilitate or mediate, teach your students to incorporate these skills into their discussions, have each student paste their questions into their workbook or stick them to the wall in a poster form.

Make room for visual reflection- Reflective activities provide students with an opportunity to absorb information more deeply- enhancing their creative and contextual understanding of the context. When reflective learning experiences are displayed visually, in the classroom, they become of benefit not only to those who share them but to every student in your class.

Keep your Classroom Layout Flexible- Within your school terms, your students will be working in many different configurations, from group projects to completing solo assessments and listening to presentations as a group along with many other activities. In order to keep the creativity flowing between these learning setups, the key is to keep your classroom layout adaptable and allow it to be easily reorganized.

Introduce unconventional learning materials- Textbooks and timeless lesson plans are a great staple in your teacher tool kit but introducing more, Unconventional

learning materials can help your students think outside the box and engage more deeply with the lesson. Podcasts, think about just about any subject or topic and chances are, there will be a podcast covering it

Encourage Hands – on Learning and Discussion- Hands on learning and channeling meaningful discussions can provide students with an arena to express new ideas, think critically and voice their opinions, engaging them on a deeper level. Benjamin (2015), once said;” Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn”.

Replace hierarchy with Collaborative Learning Spaces- Collaborative working spaces help students see themselves as constructors of knowledge rather than “subjects” of teachers. Without hierarchical front to back row seating, every seat is the best seat in the class and students are always at the center of learning. Maintain structure in less traditional ways by creating “Zones” for different parts of the learning process, such as reflection and brainstorming.

Encourage more colour- Colour can be an incredibly powerful tool to aid students with absorbing information and learning new context. Encourage your students to use more colour as a staple when taking notes. You will be surprised at how quickly they start absorbing new information. This can be incorporated in any resource, make everything from class rules to maths principles seem approachable and exciting through bold, customized templates.

Don't Limit Assignments To One Format- Allowing students to choose the format of their own assignments allows them to explore the task using a format they enjoy the most, making them more naturally inclined to draw on their creativity.

Incorporate Humour into Your Classroom- Humour is an important part of creating a positive environment in which creativity can flourish. Draw on pop culture references, use puns and find relevant jokes that make light of the learning process. Choose designs for resources that embrace this supportive and lighthearted approach to ensure students understand that learning can be fun and experimental, rather than just something that falls into” right” and” wrong” silos.

Rewards and recognition are key to motivating your students- Everyone does better with encouragement and the ultimate encouragement is reward. Rewarding achievement visually in your classroom gives students an incentive to continue doing great work as well as gaining a sense of pride. It also helps them to know that creativity and experimentation is a good thing separate from right or wrong answers. Create specialized certificates that

reflect the specific creative achievements of your students to drive their efforts.

Visualize Goals with Timelines- Empowering students to set their own goals is an incredible motivator. Goals can be decided on a project or term basis and should always be achievable. By giving students a clear vision for where they want their learning to take them, they become naturally more inclined to find creative solutions to get them there.

Pin up Motivational posters- Using aspirational quotes and posters around your classroom is a great way to encourage your students to unleash their creative potential and show them how you are embracing yours. **Team Building Exercises-** Cooperative games allows students to work together to make decisions based on creative thinking, communication, and collaboration, creating a solid base for creative thinking in the context of collaboration. Throughout the process, students build better relationships with other team members as they struggle, deal with failure, and eventually work to master the problem presented.

Use Design Thinking- Try incorporating design thinking into any project or exercise. Some useful points of reflection after the exercise might be to ask students where the biggest challenges or difficulties were and at what point they achieved the most process or success. Encouraging students to think critically about their work and how to solve problems enhances their creative thinking abilities, making them ready to understand and solve more complex problems later in life.

Explore different cultures- Developing students' ability to consider multiple perspectives is an important part of thinking outside the box. It's likely you'll have students from multiple cultural backgrounds. So celebrate these differences while also learning from them; invite their unique perspectives into discussions, encourage students to be curious and allow them the space to bring their own cultural context into tasks in order to diversify the responses to tasks.

Pair Struggling Learners with students who excel; Empowering creativity through leadership is an extremely effective learning strategy. For students who have mastered the content, being tasked with teaching a peer, encourages them to come up with creative ways to reframe the context. It also fosters a supportive environment where students understand their role as supporters to their peers when it comes to learning effectively extending the teacher role far beyond your capabilities. Peers offer a different perspective to problems than teachers do and that diversity of opinion

problems than teachers do and that diversity of opinion and support can be endless encouraging.

Challenge Advance students with extension projects;

Not all your students will learn at the same rate or in the same way and you should celebrate that. Allowing advanced students to participate in more creative extension projects helps them to learn at faster rates, find, solve and act on problems more readily, manipulate abstract ideas and make connections to an advanced degree. Students know what they need to achieve, but by allowing them the freedom to manage their own timeline, decide on their book genre, and essentially self-publish a book. The sense of achievement and creative reward for students who complete the task is immense.

Celebrate Wins with Ceremonies; Instilling a great sense of pride in their achievements encourages students to learn faster and more rigorously in the future, rather than simply use report cards or certificates to celebrate their wins, allow students to plan a victory ceremony when they plan their goals.

Concept of Innovative Teaching and Learning.

Innovative teaching is where good teachers are inventive and creative. Where they continue to discover and create new methods and content to ensure that students always get the best learning experiences. In such situations, teaching and technology combine to support good learning (Brussel, 2017).

Benefits of using Technology in the Classroom

1. It makes learning interesting and engaging especially for younger generations raised on the latest technology.
2. It allows for faster and more efficient delivery of lessons both in the classroom and at home.
3. It reduced the need for textbooks and other printed material, lowering long term costs incurred by schools and students.
4. It makes collaboration easier. Students, teachers and parents can communicate and collaborate more effectively.
5. It helps to build technology based skills, allowing students to learn, early on to embrace and take advantage of the tools technology offers.

Ways to create a Culture of Innovation in our Classrooms and Schools.

Be Expert Learners- We have to be expert learners, so our students can be expert learners. If we fail to grasp this shift then we rely on being content experts when the content is already constantly changing.

Stay informed or Get left Behind

One can stay informed by getting on to twitter, browse the hashtags and join the chats of some educators. One can also download the flip board App. Choose everything you are interested in to follow as a subject/ topic. When you find an article from twitter or clipboard that really speaks of you, sign-up to follow that writer.

Go Beyond Connection To Collaboration

Connection is great but in order to inspire a generation of innovators, our students have to see us as creators and collaborators as well. Find a problem, find others that share that problem by connecting. Talk, plan then build a solution together.

Focus on Building Great Relationships.

According to George Couros (2016) Beneath all the changes that we have seen, there is still something very human about learning. It is social and relationships matter. He sums it up perfectly: "We can no longer take the most human profession in the world and reduce it to letters and numbers". It doesn't work. We have tried it. Students need to be inspired by their teachers and develop relationships with their teachers.

Don't just Adopt

Technology Embrace it.- Embracing technology means being a learner first, then figuring out how to use it with purpose. When students see teachers using technology with a purpose, they want to also use it with purpose. Students are developing patents, creating sellable products, and launching movements all with technology. Be that inspiration that your students need by being a learner first and embracing the changes in technology.

Fight weak Data with Better Measures-

We all know that standardized test scores are not the best way to measure students success but they are the easiest way. If your standardized test scores are low but every student is graduating, going to college, a trade school, or getting a job once they leave, what does that say about your school? Our kids cannot be reduced to numbers in a spreadsheet, or we will inevitably be replaced by those that can "data dig" better than we can but worse, when we use weak data to support and showcase what our schools are all about, we completely miss the important piece of learning (Joe Bower, 2015).

Empower your Colleagues with solutions- We are going to empower our colleagues to take action and have the right attitude. Howell (2016) said best that if we are going to inspire a generation of innovators, we are going to have to be problem-solvers ourselves.

Take Your Classroom From a Space

If your school and classrooms feel more like a space or a place for students, then what is the purpose of them learning in the classroom instead of in a cubicle in front of a computer? When our classrooms look like cemeteries, our students tend to follow suit. Lined rows of desks, teacher up front. Students bored out of their minds and the best part is that 92% of teachers say they know the learning environment impacts students behaviour and achievement yet most feel like they are not in control of what it looks like.

Allow for Support, Make Time for, And Praise Creative Work- What we allow for in our schools and classrooms will ultimately open up avenues for new ideas to develop. If we do not allow for inquiry, choice, collaboration, digital tools, failure then usually only the people in charge are allowed to have ideas. In the place of support, a school that solely focuses on standardized assessment. The teachers are not supported by the administration by bringing in new ideas or curiosity to their profession. Then it is increasingly difficult for teachers to support students when they create or make. Often they will never get the opportunity. Support is the key ingredient to help those new ideas actually work. When we change what we praise and look for in a classroom, students begin to adjust what matters. When we praise failure, look for resiliency, and assess the process, then students are empowered to share their work and grow as learners in a variety of ways.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Education not only needs new ideas and inventors that shatters the performance expectations of today's status quo to make a meaningful impact. These new solutions must also scale that is grow large enough to serve millions of students and teachers (Shelton, 2011). Lack of innovations can have profound economic and social repercussions. To raise the quality of teaching, education should be enhanced to include attitudes, dispositions, teaching style, motivation, skills, competencies, self-assessment, self-efficacy, creativity, responsibility, autonomy to teach and capacity to innovate. As such, educational institutions are

to provide an optimal - academic environment, as well as materials and conditions for achieving excellence of the learning outcomes for every student. Education is nourished by society and in turn nourishes society. The national educational system relies on the dedication and responsibility of all society for its effective functioning thus parental involvement together with strong community and society backup are crucial for success.

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