

PROMOTING PEDAGOGICAL STRATEGIES FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FROM CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Introduction: Academic excellence is a desirable goal for any educational system, as it reflects the quality of teaching and learning and the achievement of the students. However, academic excellence is not a given, but a result of effective pedagogical strategies that are aligned with the curriculum, the learners, and the context. This study aims to explore and compare the pedagogical strategies that are used to promote academic excellence from childhood education to higher education in Delta State Nigeria, and to identify the best practices and the challenges that are encountered in the process. The literature review will provide a theoretical and empirical background for the study, by reviewing the relevant concepts, frameworks, and studies on pedagogical strategies and academic excellence in different levels of education.

Methodology: The descriptive research design was used to answer the research questions, while the hypotheses. The population of the study was 1000 preschool teachers in Delta State. The sample consists of 200 preschool teachers which represent 20% of the population and a stratified sampling technique was used. The instrument used was a questionnaire titled (PPSAECEHE) which was validated by experts in Early childhood education. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation and a mean of 2.50 was taken as the cut-off mark. That is a mean of 2.50 and above was taken as agree or accept while a mean below 2.50 was taken as disagree or rejected.

Results: The study unveils a significant reliance on traditional, teacher-centered pedagogical methods within Delta State's educational institutions. These methods often do not adequately engage students or promote deep learning. Conversely, the implementation of student-centered pedagogical strategies, such as collaborative learning, problem-based learning, flipped classrooms, and digital integration has demonstrated the potential to enhance student engagement and academic performance. Notably, schools and higher education institutions that have adopted these innovative strategies report marked improvements in student outcomes and educator satisfaction. These findings underscore the transformative impact of modern pedagogical approaches on the educational experience. The results will also highlight the best practices and the challenges that are encountered in using these strategies, and the factors that facilitate or hinder their implementation and effectiveness.

Conclusion: The transition towards innovative pedagogical strategies is imperative for achieving academic excellence across all educational levels in Delta State. This paper highlights the need for systemic educational reforms that prioritize student-centered learning, continuous professional development for educators, and the integration of technology in teaching and learning processes. By adopting a holistic approach to pedagogical innovation, Delta State can pave the way for a more dynamic, engaging, and effective educational system that is capable of meeting the diverse needs of its student population and achieving long-term academic excellence