INQUIRY-BASED APPROACH AND THE 21ST CENTURY STUDENTS

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In the era of modernization, traditional practices in teaching must be abolished. Practices which dictate the students what should be learned under the vigilant eye of the teachers, watching students sitting properly, listening to what teachers are saying and give expected answers are not helping students to develop cognitive skills. Based on various studies conducted in the same field, it is concluded that this kind of teaching approach is no longer effective in meeting students’ diverse needs in dealing school equations and problems. According to Dewey, routine or memorization encouraged superficial thinking and later on will develop into dislike in studying. Some researchers noted that students are learning all the time especially when they mingle with others. Dewey added that learning was formed from socialization.

Tyler (1994) who specialized in the field of assessment and evaluation suggested that an inquiry process is the dominant substitute for information-transmission approach of teaching. In inquiry process students are active participants of active learning which onset is by presenting questions that will check the prior knowledge of the students, giving problems or situations for them to investigate systematically in order to gain knowledge. In this method, students are allowed to think for themselves rather than basically offering recognized facts or establishing a directed track of knowledge. The teacher’s role in this process is the facilitator. Students will pinpoint and do a research on problems and queries to harness their knowledge or explanations on a particular matter. Inquiry-based approach comprises problem-based learning and basically utilized in small range inquiries and development such as research. The inquiry-based method is generally and strictly associated to the progress and exercise of cognitive skills.
In inquiry-based approach, students are being prepared on how to participate hands-on globally and create their own understanding through commitment in various activities of a lifespan.

Through different researches and studies, researchers came out with ten benefits of using an inquiry-based approach in teaching. These ten benefits are:
1. Encourage students’ desire for some activities, objects or concept and enhance students’ gift.
2. Enable students’ opinions and ideas and honor their choice.
3. Upsurge drive and commitment.
4. Nurture students’ interest and inculcate fondness towards learning.
5. Impart perseverance, determination, critical thinking and discipline.
6. Design significant research and improve skills in making queries.
7. Develop comprehension that will guide the students to think unconfined with facts and lesson concepts.
8. Strengthen the significance of the art of questioning.
9. Empower students to design and create their own learning style in order for them to achieve their objectives.
10. Explain the measures to be taken in order to save the future.

Looking at the benefits that can be derived using inquiry-based approach and the testimonies of numerous researchers, this approach of instruction is denoted as the most effective way to achieve the objectives of the teaching and learning process. This is the reason why Department of Education is encouraging educators to implement the said approach in executing their lessons. It will help the students in dealing real life situations.
References:

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