THE USE OF INQUIRY-BASED APPROACH IN TEACHING SCIENCE

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Inquiry-based learning is an approach to learning that emphasizes the student’s role within the learning process. Rather than the teacher telling students what they have to understand, students are encouraged to explore the fabric, ask questions, and share ideas. Inquiry-based learning uses many different approaches to learning, including guided learning and small-group discussion. Instead of remembering the facts and material, students learn by doing. This allows them to build knowledge through exploration, experience, and discussion (Grade Power Learning, 2018).

The inquiry approach is one among the foremost effective and success-guaranteed methods in teaching science. It offers the greatest promise in directing learning activities towards the attainment of the ultimate goal of science teaching for 21st century-the development of scientific literacy. The termed discovery, scientific thinking, heuristic and problem solving. Unlike other teaching models which emphasize direct instruction, inquiry teaching aims to help students seek answer to their own questions, gather pieces of evidences and draw own conclusion and generalizations. It puts premium on self-directed learning activities patterned after the scientific procedure and processes. A such, they learn inquiring about something weighing, and sorting out information and building their own meaning. In so doing, they employ such processes as analyzing, evaluating and synthesizing with an end in sight at discovering concepts by themselves. Ultimately, they become independent, autonomous learners capable of learning on their own (Salandanan, 2012).

According to Guido (2017), there are seven (7) Benefits of Inquiry-Based Learning to help students reach a high level of thinking, inquiry-based learning can deliver other
benefits to students and teachers. These are; reinforces curriculum content, “Warms Up” the brain for learning, promotes a deeper understanding of content, helps make learning rewarding, builds initiative and self-direction, works in almost any classroom, and offers differentiated instruction.

Inquiry-based approach is much thought has been spent on the role of inquiry in science education, inquiry learning can be applied to all disciplines. Individuals need many perspectives for viewing the world. Such views could include scientific, historic, artistic, economic, and other perspectives. The inquiry learning includes the appliance of certain specific "ground rules" that insure the integrity of the varied disciplines and their world views (Educational Broadcasting Corporation, 2004).

References:

