



Research/Technical Note

Field Trip as a Means of Motivation and Enhancement of Students' Ability in the Study of Automobile Trade in Nigeria Schools

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Abstract: The educational system of the world has shown great improvement in terms of knowledge, interest, and motivation as demonstrated among the children in the world. The performance of children in their academics in the recent times, in this 21st century has shown a tremendous improvement. In the western world, teaching and learning methods is taught to learner through computer simulation, computer tutorial, 3D animation and field trip. Field trip makes students to see things for them to get first-hand information, this has made teaching and learning to be impressive, students can understand what is taught to them. Teaching is made simple because what is taught to students they see it, touches it, and feels it by hand themselves, when they go on visit to the sight. In Nigeria cycle, the teaching and learning method is done in lecture methods in schools, which make students and pupils not to understand what is being taught to them, learning is bored because the learner do not see what is taught to them, they are abstract in nature because teacher does the teaching, while students listening to the teacher. It is a teacher learning centered approach; in carrying out this study the researcher used survey design methods to gather data for the research, findings was discussed to back up the research, conclusion were made. Field trip brings excitement, cooperation by doing things collectively, first-hand information by knowing what you are to learn by visiting, feeling, and touching to make learning methods to be simple.

Keywords: Field Trip, Motivation, Automobile, Trade

1. Introduction

The introduction of field trip in the western world educational system has really improved their learning method, and making learning to be fast and simple. Field trip is termed outdoor learning experience because it involves the learning out of classroom environment. In the Nigeria school system, field trip is not in use. It is lecture teaching method that is mostly in use. A field trip occurs in a school system when students leave school ground for an educational purpose. It is a students' trip for the purpose of curriculum related study out of classroom for educational experience. Brian & Linda, (2004) state that an educational field trip can be define as an integral part of the instructional program [1], good field trips provide participants with first-hand

experience related to the topic of concept being discussed in the program. A field trip or excursion is a journey taking by a group of people to place away from their usual environment (2). In education field trips are defined as visit to outside area of the normal classroom and made by a teacher and students for purpose of first-hand observation. Field trip can be considered as one of the three avenues through which science can be taught through formal classroom teaching practical work and field trip.

Tai, (2004) conducted a research by having series of interviews with the secondary school science teachers to determine the influence on those teachers to take field trip in the teaching of science [3]. The interview was evaluated using an interpretive methodology approach that indicated a range of influence. It was observed that science teachers are

generally willing to use field trip as part of their pedagogy because they feel that their students need hands-on, real life experience to examine the application of science which arranged their classroom studies. The taking of youths to parks, schools, camps, nature centers and other outdoor settings provide an important contribution to the learning process as shown below.



Figure 1. Showing school children on field trip.

Research has documented the cognitive and affective benefits of field trip including increased motivation for learning [3]. It is imperative that the teacher prepares the students for the field trip in order to maintain a level of control that will allow for learning to occur when the class arrives the venue [4]. The essence of learning is to create better individuals through capacity building in order to afford enhanced livelihoods. This is more relevant in the developing economies like Nigeria where there is a pronounced high level of illiteracy and poverty [5]. Knapp, (2000) opined that field trip has helped to improve acquisition of knowledge and skill among student during field trip as a learning process [6]. Field trip can stimulate learners' interest for natural resources related careers that result in an improved attitude toward the site visited [7]. It was found from substantial evidence that field trip that was properly conceived, adequately planned, well taught and effectively followed up offer learners opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in ways that add value to their everyday experience in the classroom [8]. It was advised that field trip should be integrated into the broader instructional program and used only when it is the most effective and efficient procedure for fulfilling the learning objective [9]. Field trip plays an important role in the educational system of a child within the educational circle of an individual group of children. Field trip plays the following important roles outside the school system during learning process [10].

1. Reinforcement of information that children learn in the classroom.
2. Help children to interact with what they are learning.
3. Serve as a powerful motivation and are considered fun from children.
4. Extension of classroom study.
5. Provide opportunity to work together cooperatively with others.
6. Provide experience that cannot be duplicated in the school.
7. Broaden the vision of cultural diversity.

8. Provide real life context for the material being learned.
9. Remember better through experience.
10. Allow children to touch and manipulate the material about which they are learning

Field trips which include:

1. Educational field trips
2. Day field trips
3. Recurring field trips
4. Field trips with hazards. Examples are
 - a) Near water or involving swimming or boating
 - b) In remote location
 - c) Involving animal farm, zoo, riding animals etc.
 - d) Involving outdoor education
 - e) Extended field trips-overnight field trip or out of area
 - f) Out of country field trips.

Claiborne, (2020) state that field trips can take a variety of forms that meet a diverse set of needs and can enhance deep active learning [10]. The intended educational outcome of field trips focus on the following five areas:

1. Developing social and person skills.
2. Developing observation and perception skills
3. Adding relevance and meaning to learning.
4. Providing first-hand real word experience
5. Enhancing intrinsic motivation and interest in the subject.

Educational field trip is the prime focal points of the research. Beside field trip encourage new interest among students make them more aware of community resources and help them relate their school experience to the outside world [11]. Field trips are permissible if they are conducted for educational purpose to enhance the students' intellectual growth and are directly related to district approved curriculum. Below is a field trip planning model as designers by Escondido union school district, (2006) that can be implemented in any school educational system to elicit student's interest that will bring about the enhancement of teaching and learning process [12].

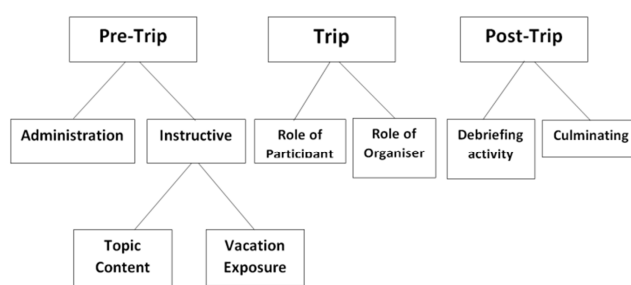


Figure 2. Schematic diagram of fieldtrip planning model.

Schematic Diagram of Field Trip Planning Model by Mayers & Jones, (2004) the field trip planning model can be applied in the teaching and learning process at the elementary school stage, secondary school, technical colleges and tertiary institutions to enhance teaching and learning process in the school system [11]. The application of field trip in the teaching and learning process in educational cycle of a school system help to enforce the following advantages in the

learners' mind.

1. It eases tension in the learners' mind.
2. It motivates learner interest toward learning.
3. It brings excitement in the learners' mind.
4. It enables the learners to feel and have experiences of what has been learnt in the classroom.
5. It helps to facilitate the understanding of the learners.
6. It promotes the willingness to learn in the learners' mind.
7. It creates long term experience in the mind of the learners.
8. It creates good retention in the learners recall ability.
9. It enables the learners to be acquainted with what has been taught that will lead to good academic achievement in the learners' mind.

It is very pertinent to note that field trip is a vital component of academic achievement in the western world in this 21st century. Because students are exposed to many things in their learning environment. There is an excitement among students when they embark on field trip, because it helps to elicit the interest of a learners in the learning environment, like visiting industries to see things for them self as a first-hand information to students. Automobile students are allowed to go on visit as excursion to industries where they will be taught on how to assemble the components of a vehicle in the industries. But in Nigeria situation, students are taught the theory and little practical work is done outside the classroom which is practical class

1.1. Motivation in Teaching and Learning Process

Interest the substance of motivation to do anything. Motivation brings about good teaching and learning process in any school system. According to Akaneme & Onyeabor sees motivation as a feeling, emotion or curiosity which causes attention to be focused on an object, event or a process (13). Motivation is a curiosity in technical college student to learn Automobile technology. It is therefore very good to apply a device that can arouse the interest of students in teaching. Experimental learning at formal and informal field trip venues increases students interest, knowledge, and motivation [14]. Participating in field trips is a great way to enjoy a unique learning experience outside a classroom environment. Field trips are not only good fun they allow students to absorb interact and immerse them in a practical way. In the teaching and learning of Automobile technology, there should be an application of new technology like 3D computer content package to help build up students' interest. The way a person learns depends on the person's interest [15]. Motivation has to do with the feeling or energy that is channeled towards the achievement of a goal. When a child continues with a particular zeal and eagerness to achieve or get knowledge, it means that the child is interested in the subject. A student who is invited for a programme of study goes to school regularly and punctually under rain and sun, stays in the class and pays attention to the teacher; participate in class activities and takes examination seriously. He further stated that the uninterested students will do the opposite. Interest is one of the motivating factors and it is one of the

reasons for attaining achievement in any activity. Also, motivation is seen as one of the predictors of achievement. Chukwu, (2001) has posited that *motivation has been interpreted as the determinant of success second to intelligence [16]. It is very pertinent to note that motivation in children is associated with some facts that serve as determinants to their interest in this study.*

Interest has some values which are stated by Awoniyi, [1985] as follows:

1. It serves as a great motivation.
2. It provides the teacher with teachable moment when children show keen interest.
3. It aids success and makes a child to be gainfully occupied.
4. Interest adds enjoyment and satisfaction to a child's life (17).

According to Dil, (2012) students' motivational interest can be aroused or caught to gain their attention to learn in the classroom by making use of interest inventories (18). So, when students are exposed to the interest inventory, their interest will be aroused to motivate them.

Automobile technology as a trade when students start attending lessons constantly without any grudges or complain, it shows that they are interested in the trade as a subject. Also, when students interest by participating actively in workshop practice with all enthusiasm, it shows that students' interests have been aroused in the study of Automobile technology as a trade subject. In addition, when student can diagnose fault and carry out minor repairs with zeal and commitment in the workshop, it also shows that students' interest in Automobile technology at schools and colleges has improved.

1.2. Automobile Technology as a Trade

A trade is something that one does or learns as training for a period of time to acquire a skill. The trainee is issued a certificate at the end of the programme, showing that he or she has mastered the technique that guides the trade without anybody assisting him or her. A trader encompasses many skills that are taught to the trainee as a student, they include automobile technology, block molding, electrical technology, marketing, blacksmithing, tailoring, etc. There are hundreds of trades in the society that students are exposed to, and they are expected to choose one or two types of trade and master the trade.

Trade is of two types – formal trade and informal trade. The trade that is done and students are made to write by learning is termed formal trade. The students spend time, like one to two years or more on the trade, learning the intricacies that are involved like in a school system is termed formal trade. But when the trainee learns from the master by watching the master, it does not involve any training like school, the participant does not write, such training is termed informal trade. Automobile technology as a branch of trade in school like technical colleges, secondary schools, tertiary institution was not started early enough.

The history of automobile in Nigeria started earlier before Nigeria as a country had her independence in 1960. The

training institutes like technical colleges where established to train people in the 70s because there was no manpower, students are taught in an informal way. The minister of trade and investment Aganga, (2013) stated that Automobile industry is an engine of growth and a stimulus to other economic activities like creating of employment opportunities, growth of other satellite industries and enhancement of technology transferred of skill acquisition (19).

2. Statement of the Problem

The method of teaching in Nigeria is lecture method of which teacher does the teaching and pupils and student does the listening. Students find it difficult to understand the teaching of a teacher, because what is taught to students is abstract in nature. Comparing this to the western world where students are taken for outside learning to seek for first-hand information by observing, touching, feeling to support learning in the school system makes learning to be interesting and motivating.

3. Methodology and Result

The survey research design was used to gather data the researcher used some samples of schools that make use of field trips, simulation, computer tutorial and 3D animation for this study. It was observed that schools that embarked on field trip, 3D animation etc. for their teaching did better than schools that are using lecture method in their examination. The students understand the teaching better compared to when they are taught with lecture method. The students did better when they were exposed to field trip because they were exposed to first hand-information.

4. Discussion of Findings

The following are the findings of the study:

- (1) Students are highly motivated; there was increase in their interest, because students show great improvement in their study.
- (2) The teaching of students was made simple, because students find first-hand information in their study.
- (3) Students find learning interesting, because the learning was outdoor learning, Students interact with one another by feeling, touching, observing of things for themselves.
- (4) Students spend longer time in learning, because the teaching and learning process is re-creative and stable. Students spend more time in field trips.
- (5) Students teach themselves in the process of field trips, because they see things for themselves, observe, there by exposing them to other new things.

5. Conclusion

It is imperative to note that field trip is an important aspect of education in this 21st century, because the western world

have made a tremendous improvement as regard their educational system at the elementary stage, colleges and universities. Pupils at the elementary stage are made to travel from one location to another under supervision of their class teacher or guidance, to visit and familiarize themselves with new events. University students are made to be creative by visiting industries as excursion to source of information as first-hand information to use when carrying out a research.

But in Nigeria situation, it is not so. Teaching and learning method is centered on teacher and learner in the classroom using lecture method to teach them. The field trip is not encouraged in Nigeria because it is very expensive, cumbersome and time-taking. Field trip has brought new innovation to educational cycle, such as excitement among students, cooperation among student, group learning among students, to get first-hand information by seeing, feeling, and touching by students and the learners. It is important to include field trip in the Nigerian system of education in their curriculum program.

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