

INTERACTIVE GAMES: AS STRATEGY IN TEACHING-LEARNING ON SELECTED TOPICS IN SCIENCE

by: Myleen B. Elardo

Teacher I, St. Francis National High School

The future of our country's success depends on the present generation of learners that must be equipped with skills, attitude, knowledge and fundamental behavior. With this, it is a challenge for every teacher to create the best teaching strategies that suits the students' needs and interests.

The **Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)** is an international assessment conducted every three years in over 80 countries where the participants are 15 year old students. This assessment aims to measure students' reading, mathematical and science literacy. Each cycle, the primary subject of study alternates between Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Measures of general or cross-curricular abilities, such as cooperative problem solving, are also included in PISA. Philippines is one of the participating country in the said international assessment. And, based from the result of the PISA 2018, Philippines got second ranked to the last in Math and Science and ranked last in Reading showing the most significant need for improvement in literacy skills. This result is a clear signal that the educational system in the Philippines should focus on curriculum improvement, teacher training in the new trend, and increased funding to address these low rankings in math, science and reading.

To enhance students learning in Science, educators must be armed with learning strategies that will enhance students' knowledge. Students who manipulates logical thoughts utilizing active/personalities on methods and exercises, are more fruitful than peers who are instructed by teachers depending basically on talks and course books. Effective Science instruction focuses on questioning, allowing students to relate their prior knowledge, and encouraging collaboration and reflection.

Among other teaching strategies, technology in the classroom is considered the most relevant nowadays, beyond the traditional way. Incorporating technology into your teaching is a great way to actively engage your students, especially as digital media surrounds young people in the 21st century (Effective Teaching Strategies for the classroom, 2018). The integration of technology in teaching-learning process is

essential. According to the study of Ghavifekr & Rosdy (2015), technology-integrated learning materials enhance the knowledge, skills, and communicative competence of the learners and enable them to achieve the learning objectives effectively and interestingly.

Given the modernization project of the local government of Bataan XEPTO Education was adopted to Senior High School and Junior High School in the entire province. XEPTO provides schools with a wealth of multimedia educational resources, including animations, gamified learning activities, assessments, interactive games and the like. This platform provides rich and engaging interactive multimedia content for the students to give fun while enhancing their academic performance. Teachers can also customize lessons and assessment to address individual learning and check the students' attendance since students have their unique accounts in the learning portal.

Finally, the current generation of learners' development is critical to our country's future success. The PISA 2018 findings highlight the need for major improvements in literacy, numeracy, and science education in the Philippines. Educators can better engage students and improve their learning experiences by implementing creative teaching tactics, such as integrating technology into the classroom. The deployment of platforms such as XEPTO Education in Bataan is a significant tool for modernizing education by offering students with interactive, multimedia content that aids in academic development. Moving forward, curricular reform, teacher training, and increasing investment in technology are critical to ensuring that kids have the skills they need for success.

References

https://www.oecd.org/pisa/publications/PISA2018_CN_PHL.pdf

Ghavifekr, S. & Rosdy, W.A.W. (2015). Teaching and learning with technology: Effectivity of ICT-LMS integration in schools. International Journal of Research in Education and Science (IJRES), 1(2), 175-191.

Bonifacio, A. (2013). Developing Information Communication Technology (ICT) Curriculum Standards for K-12 Schools in the Philippines.

<https://linc.mit.edu/linc2013/proceedings/Session7/Session7Bonifacio.pdf>

7 Effective Teaching Strategies for Classroom. February 23, 2018. <https://www.quizalines.com>