

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

by:

Candy M. Lee

Teacher II, Mariveles National High School-Cabcaben

The real situation at school is like a routine: listening to teachers, taking notes, passing tests, and repeating the process. However, what if education could take place outside of lectures and worksheets? What if the students were able to investigate the real issues and develop actual solutions? That is exactly what Project-Based Learning (PBL) provides.

Project-Based Learning is a student-centered approach that utilizes real-world problems or challenges to increase student motivation and engagement based on the theory that students will have a deeper connection to the curriculum, which directly impacts them and their community. PBL is one of the best methods of learning compared to short-term projects, which are used to improve instruction. It encourages creativity, builds reflective thinking, and connects various fields (Condliffe, 2021).

In a PBL classroom, students are engaged in meaningful projects that give them the opportunity to ask vital questions, find answers, and have a valuable impact, aside from memorizing facts that they might forget after the test. What matters is that the experience remains with them.

For instance, they could explore questions like: "How can our school reduce plastic waste?" or "What can we do to boost the mental health among teenagers?". They form teams, accomplish research, talk with others, and create original solutions. Others develop models, make videos and posters, or give their ideas to the community. Along the way, they are acquiring real-world skills, confidence, and teamwork, along with

learning. Rather than asking, “Will this be on the test?”, students start asking, “How can we make it better?” – and that is when you know the powerful shift.

The final thoughts, Project-Based Learning is not just a passing trend; it is an improved approach to promote the students' curiosity, competence, and self-confidence. It helps them to realize that education is for life, not just for school.

References:

Condliffe, B. (2021). Project-Based Learning: A Literature Review. Lucas Education Research. Retrieved from <https://lucasedresearch.org>

Holm, M., Jenkins, R., & Freeman, A. (2022). The Impact of Project-Based Learning on Student Engagement and Achievement. <https://www.collegesidekick.com/study-docs/13046287>

Vega, V., & Robb, L. (2021). How Project-Based Learning Builds 21st-Century Skills. Edutopia. Retrieved from <https://www.edutopia.org/article/project-based-learning-skills>