

STRENGTHENING SCIENCE TEACHING THROUGH INQUIRY-BASED PRACTICES IN THE MATATAG CURRICULUM

by:

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The MATATAG Curriculum was created by the Department of Education (DepEd) to fix gaps in learning and make education better in the Philippines. In science, the lessons are taught so that students can truly understand the material and apply it in real life, rather than just remembering information by heart. One method that works well with these goals is inquiry-based learning (IBL), which helps students think like scientists, ask questions, and take action.

Inquiry-based learning changes how teachers work by moving them from just giving information to helping students find answers on their own. Students are asked to come up with their own questions, create simple experiments, gather and look at data, and share what they learn. For example, in a lesson about ecosystems, students might go outside to observe living things in their surroundings, notice how they are connected, and try to imagine how changes in the environment might affect different animals and plants. These activities help spark curiosity and make learning more engaging and important.

The MATATAG Curriculum strengthens this process by incorporating Big Ideas and Crosscutting Concepts across grade levels. These recurring themes – such as systems, energy transfer, cause and effect, and patterns – provide students with a unified framework to make sense of diverse topics. By consistently linking content to these central ideas, teachers can help students build durable and transferable knowledge, reducing fragmentation of learning.

Assessment methods also show the idea of inquiry-based learning. Instead of just using usual written tests, the MATATAG Curriculum uses performance-based assessments such as experiments, lab reports, science projects, and oral presentations. These ways of assessing not only test what students have learned but also check if they can apply that knowledge in real-life situations. This helps improve both their ability to think and their practical skills.

In general, inquiry-based learning helps reach the goals of the MATATAG Curriculum by encouraging scientific literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

By doing practical and important activities, students learn more about Science as both knowledge and a way of exploring. Teachers who use this approach help students become independent and skilled learners prepared for the challenges of today's world.

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