

Videotaped Instruction and Constructivist Model On Students' Physics Achievement

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Abstract: *This study was designed to explore the effects of videotaped instruction and the five steps constructivists' model of prior knowledge, exploration, discussion, dissatisfaction with prior knowledge and application (PEDDA) on the achievement of students in physics. A quasi-experimental design involving pretest and posttest for both experimental groups was employed. The sample size was 398 (videotaped group =198, PEDDA group = 200). Senior secondary school two (SSS2) physics students from four co-educational schools were randomly selected out of the sixteen coeducational schools in Umuahia North Local Government Area (LGA) of Umuahia Education Zone of Abia State Nigeria. Two of the schools were randomly assigned to videotaped treatment group and the other two to PEDDA treatment group. Students in both groups were given pretest before instruction and posttest after instruction. Data was obtained using Physics Concept Test (PCT). The instrument PCT used for data collection was validated by experts of measurement and evaluation in the Department of Science Education of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. Data collected was analyzed using mean, standard deviation and analysis of covariance. The study revealed that both treatment groups facilitated achievement among students with PEDDA constructivist model facilitating achievement better than videotaped instruction. Recommendations were made.*

Keywords: *Achievement, constructivism, constructivist model, physics and videotaped instruction,.*

I. Introduction

The knowledge of the natural world and environment has led to the division of the natural sciences into several disciplines of which physics is one of them. Physics is a science that observes natural phenomena and explains them by using general rules to describe what has been observed. According to Ayodele and Anyaegbuna (2012), today's physics has two sides, on the one hand, it provides the basis for our current world picture, while on the other hand, it is the foundation of other subjects for technological developments. In the view of Esiobu (2007), of the three core sciences-Biology, Chemistry and Physics, physics holds the strongest position as a major subject prerequisite into careers in science and technology. Physics has helped in the development of modern technology through the application of its principles to modern invention. It enhances an understanding of the interplay of forces in nature. Adeyemi (2003) and Oraifo (2005) are of the view that physics plays very important role in scientific and technological advancement that affect the lives of mankind. The implication is that the outcomes of physics education affect the attainment and realization of our national goals and objectives with regards to the development of science and technology in Nigeria (Ayodele & Anyaegbuna, 2012). In other words, Nigeria cannot develop technologically if physics is not taught properly at the secondary school level.

Despite all the efforts made by the Federal Government and physics educators to improve the teaching of physics, physics learners have been observed to demonstrate low achievement in physics examinations (Oraifo, 2005). Empirical evidences revealed that students' scientific literacy levels are low and that students have difficulties mastering the concepts and principles outlined in the science curricula especially in physics (Njoku, 2002; Eze, 2003; Nwagbo, 2006). Poor performance in physics and its effect on the scientific and technological development of the country has been the major concern of many physics educators. These poor performances as observed over the years could be as a result of the methods used in the teaching of physics which has made the subject very unpopular on the part of the students (Ayodele, 2002). Hence the need to explore the effects of videotaped instruction and the five step constructivist model (PEDDA) on physics students' achievement since researchers have indicated that science learning is a constructive process and knowledge construction which requires participation on the part of the learner and their teacher (Achor, 2001).

Videotaped instruction is an instructional tool that has high potential in the teaching and learning situations. Videotapes have the quality of being able to provide semi permanent, very complete and audio-visual records of events. They have the potential of increasing the probability that students will learn more, retain better and even improve their performance of the skills they are expected to develop. Educational technologists as well as curriculum experts have proved that videotaped instruction has high potential in the teaching and learning situation for it can multiply and widen the channels of communication between the teacher and the

students (Osokoya, 2007; Curzon, 1991). Adams (1990) is of the opinion that videotaped instruction is one of the most influential of all the media for teaching as a result of its power of both sight and sound. Banford and Western (1997) reiterated that the benefits of colour, sound and motion attached to the videotaped packed will be of interest to the students who are the target of the study. Literature has also established that videotaped instruction has greatly improved the performance of children with special needs and slow learning abilities (Aremu, 1992; Mitchell, 1994; Okwo, 1994).

Constructivism is a teaching approval that holds the view that knowledge are personally constructed and reconstructed by the learner based on his prior knowledge or experience. Learners are viewed as active participants in the learning process and are said to construct meaning through experiences thereby developing personal theories about the physical and social world. The Five Step Conceptual Change Instruction Model (PEDDA) was developed by Nworgu (1996) PEDDA is a five step conceptual change instructional model which comprises prior knowledge, exploration, discussion, dissatisfaction with the prior knowledge and application. This model provides the opportunity for the learner to test his perceptions against actual experience from his own activities and apply the new experiences in order to experience its usefulness. The model also provides an outline for instructors who wish to combine the development of reasoning and content mastery.

The influences of students gender in their achievement in physics has been a concern to education researchers for long. Some studies showed that male students achieve better than female students in physics (Ogu, 1995; Madu, 2004; and Ogbonna, 2004). Other studies showed that female students achieve better than male students (Ocho, 1997; Nkpa 1997). In the studies carried out by Ifeanchi (2002), Aiyedun (2000) and Agommuoh (2004) gender was found to play no significant role in physics achievement. This makes gender issues inconclusive.

Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of videotaped instruction and the five step constructivist model (PEDDA) on secondary school students' achievement in physics.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the mean achievement scores of students taught physics using videotaped instruction and those taught using PEDDA methods?
2. What are the mean achievement scores of male and female students taught physics using videotaped instruction and those taught using PEDDA methods?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses tested at $P \leq 0.05$ guided the study.

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the mean achievement scores of Students' taught physics using videotaped instruction and those taught using PEDDA method.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in the mean achievement scores of male and female students taught physics using videotaped instruction and those taught using PEDDA method.

II. Methodology

The study adopted the quasi-experimental research design. Specifically the study was non-randomized pretest posttest control group design. This design was chosen because intact classes were used for the study.

Umuahia North Local Government Area of Umuahia Education Zone of Abia State was purposively sampled because it has the highest number of coeducation secondary schools in the zone. Four coeducational secondary schools in Umuahia North LGA were selected. Out of the four schools selected, two were randomly assigned to videotaped treatment group and two to PEDDA treatment. A total of three hundred and ninety-eight (398) Senior Secondary School two (SSS2) physics students (videotaped group = 198, PEDDA group = 200) formed the sample for the study.

The instrument used in this study is Physics Concept Test (PCT). The PCT was in form of paper and pen test that included 10 questions in essay format which measured the students' knowledge and subsequent understanding and application of physics concepts. Students in both groups were given pretest before instruction and posttest after instruction. A videotaped was used to capture important a characteristic of the lesson taught as the teacher was teaching it and this was played to the students. In the case of the constructivist model, students' prior conceptions were diagnosed; materials that will enable them observe phenomenon provided, scientific information that will enable them arrive at scientifically acceptable explanation of concepts created and opportunities to develop the fruitfulness by applying the new concepts to real world situations provided to the students.

The instrument PCT used for data collection was validated by three experts of measurement and evaluation and physics educators of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. An internal reliability of 0.80 was obtained using cronbach Alpha while the coefficient of stability for the PCT was established using spearman's test-retest coefficient of reliability and was found to be 0.91. Data collected was analyzed using mean and standard deviation for the research questions, analysis of covariance for the hypotheses.

The research questions were answered by computing the mean scores and standard deviation scores for both groups while the hypotheses were tested at $P \leq 0.05$ probability level using analysis of covariance.

III. Results

The result in respect of mean and standard deviation of students overall achievement scores used in answering research questions 1 and 2 is shown in table 1.

**Table 1:
Mean and Standard Deviation of Students' Overall Achievement Scores using Videotaped Instruction and PEDDA Method**

Method	Gender	Pretest			Posttest		
		Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N
PEDDA	Male	13.33	3.75	99	26.33	4.67	99
	Female	12.96	3.25	101	26.28	3.90	101
	Overall	13.18	3.56	200	26.31	4.37	200
Videotaped	Male	14.82	3.92	102	24.51	4.17	102
	Female	12.85	3.30	96	23.95	4.17	96
	Overall	14.04	3.80	198	24.29	4.16	198

The result in table 1 clearly showed that the mean achievement scores of PEDDA group were higher than that of students in the Videotaped group. Table 1 also showed that male students in both groups scored higher than their female counterparts.

The ANCOVA results in respect of students' overall achievement scores by instructional approaches and gender used in answering hypotheses 1 and 2 is shown in table 2 below.

**Table 2
Analysis of Covariance of Students' Overall Achievement Scores by Instructional Approaches and Gender**

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Squares	F	Sign of P
Model	256325.329	5	51265.065	3388.712	.000
PREACHVT (Covariates)	1217.816	1	1217.816	80.025	.000
METHOD	548.024	1	548.024	36.012	.000
SEX	6.213	1	6.213	.408	.523
METHOD* SEX	1.682	1	1.612	.111	.740
Error	5980.675	393	15.218		
Total	162306.000	398			

Table 2 above shows the ANCOVA results of students who were taught with PEDDA and videotaped instructions. From table 2, the main effect was significant as well as treatment. Thus the null hypothesis of no significant difference in students' achievement was rejected. Hence there is a significant difference in students' achievement. The main effect was found significant while gender was not significant. Thus the null hypothesis of no significant difference for gender was not rejected since sex was not significant.

IV. Discussion

The mean achievement scores of students taught with both PEDDA method and videotaped instruction was found to improve with that of those taught with PEDDA method higher than that of those taught with video taped instruction. This implies that PEDDA method facilitated students' achievement of physics concepts better than the videotaped instruction. This is because PEDDA method provides the students with a lot of time, productive engagement and facilities that makes it possible for information to be obtained through activities that proceeds through a planned sequence of structured concept invention and concept application activities. This result is in consonance with the opinion of Okebukola (2002) that the learner advances through Assimilation,

Accommodation and Equilibrium. This is also in agreement with the opinion of Rollink and Rutherford (1993) that the use of constructivists' strategy was effective in facilitating conceptual shift. The result of this study is also in agreement with the works of Egbughara (1988), Obodo (1990) and Madu (2004). Egbughara (1988) observed that the use of advanced organizers in teaching had significant achievement effect in science learning. Obodo (1990) noted that three instructional strategies (target tasks, delayed formalization and expository) methods had significant effect on achievement of algebraic concepts while Madu (2004) in his work found out that constructivist based methods are significant in enhancing achievement.

From the result, both male and female students improved in their achievement scores but with male students having slightly higher mean achievement scores than their female counterparts. This result agrees with the findings of some studies (Madu, 2004; Agommuoh, 2004; Ogbonna, 2007) which indicated that there was no significant difference between achievement of male and female students in science learning.

V. Conclusion

The use of both PEDDA and videotaped methods improved students' achievement in physics but with the use of PEDDA constructivist instructional method enhancing students' achievement in physics concepts better than the videotaped method. Gender had no influence over achievement although male students seemed to perform better than their female counterparts relative to their achievement scores in physics concepts.

VI. Recommendation

It is recommended that classroom teachers should design teaching strategies that can help students overcome their difficulties in learning and interpreting physics concepts. The PEDDA and videotaped methods of teaching physics should be adopted in secondary schools. Physics teachers should be trained on the effective use of such methods through seminars, workshops and conferences. Curriculum developers in science education should adopt these methods in restructuring the physics curriculum in our secondary schools. It is therefore expected that with improved scores in physics, the much expected scientific literacy and technological development may become a reality.

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