



Volume: 2, Issue: 9, 61-62
Sep 2015
www.allsubjectjournal.com
e-ISSN: 2349-4182
p-ISSN: 2349-5979
Impact Factor: 4.342

Mudassar Nazar Baidya
Assistant Teacher,
Majhira Noorani High Madrasah
(H.S), Murshidabad

Aniruddha Saha
Assistant Teacher, Gourisail
Gouripur Ananda Vidyapith
(H.S), Gangsara Majhergram,
Nadia

Abhijit Mondal
Guest Lecturer, Prabhu
Jagatbandhu College, Andul,
Howrah, West Bengal 711302

Inclusion of project work in higher secondary education in West Bengal: An initiative towards educational reforms

Mudassar Nazar Baidya, Aniruddha Saha, Abhijit Mondal

Abstract

Education is a dynamic process. It should cater all the needs of the pupils with the changes of time and the advancement of the society. So, systematic reforms are essential in education. This study seeks to find out the effects of the inclusion of project work in higher secondary education in West Bengal. Totally 200 pupils studying in class eleven and twelve of Majhira Noorani High Madrasah (H.S.), Murshidabad and Bhangar High School (H.S.), South 24PGS participated in this study. With the help of interview schedule we collected the data for our study from the pupils of these two institutions. We used several parameters in this particular study such as 1)physical activities, 2)Problem solving ability, 3)Work experience, 4) Attitudes towards team work, 5)Democratic values, 6)Ability of critical thinking 7) Social interaction 8) Academic performance and 9)Problems they (pupils) faced. It has been found that project work helps them in various ways. It is also fruitful for developing better teacher-pupil relationship. This study also discovers some problems of project work and recommends some measures to cope with them. The results have been analyzed in the light of the data given by the pupils of both institutions.

Keywords: project work, higher secondary education, educational reforms

Introduction

Life is dynamic and hence, education is also a dynamic process. With the changes of time and needs of our society education has to change its perspectives so that it can be able to fulfill all the demands accordingly. Changing the educational systems for better effectiveness is known as educational reforms. It is very crucial for any society. In 2013, Project Work has been included in the curriculum of higher secondary education in West Bengal to make an activity based curriculum and pace with other states of India.

Project work is a democratic teaching approach which helps pupils to develop their psychomotor skills. This method was propounded by W.H.Kilpatric. Here pupils are assigned such a project to be done which has direct utility for students as well as teachers. Students work on the project under the guidance of their teacher and find out the solution of the problem on the basis of their own experience.

There are several types of projects such as constructive, aesthetic, problematic, drill projects etc. It helps pupils to acquire work experiences, solve problems, develop democratic attitudes and values and many more.

The objective of the present study is to evaluate the effectiveness of inclusion of project work in higher secondary education in West Bengal and also find out the shortcomings of this particular method. For this purpose we took a sample of 200 pupils studying in class eleven and twelve of two schools namely Majhira Noorani high Madrasah (H.S.), Murshidabad and Bhangar High School (H.S.), 24 PGS (South). Interview schedule have been employed to them for collecting data.

Objectives

1. To study the effectiveness of project work in higher secondary level
2. To know the pupils responses about project work
3. To identify the merits of project work
4. To point out the solutions relating to the problems of project work

Methodology

1. SAMPLE

200 pupils studying in class eleven and twelve of Majhira Noorani High Madrasah (H.S.),

Correspondence

Mudassar Nazar Baidya
Assistant Teacher,
Majhira Noorani High Madrasah
(H.S), Murshidabad

Murshidabad and Bhangar High School (H.S.), 24pgs(s) have been taken as sample for our study through simple random sampling technique.

2. Tool

We used an interview schedule for collecting data in which 50 items were included.

3. Procedure

At first, we selected two schools. Then with the help of lottery method we took 200 pupils from these two schools. After that, we developed an interview schedule on the basis of the objectives of our study. Therefore, we employed it to the pupils and gathered data. We explained the purpose of our study before employing interview schedule on them.

Data Analysis

The following table shows the analysis of the data

PARAMETERS	OUTCOMES
1. Physical activities:	85% involves in physical activities
2. Problem Solving ability :	75% pupils benefitted from this method for solving problems
3. Work Experience:	90% pupils gained field experiences through this method
4. Attitudes towards team work:	87% pupils developed positive attitudes towards team work
5. Democratic values:	cooperation, sympathy, unity, responsibility and leadership attributes developed among 72% learners
6. Critical thinking:	50% pupils were found who developed critical thinking
7. Social interaction:	93% pupils are able to increase social interaction
8. Academic performance:	96% are of the view that it helps them to achieve good marks in the examination
9. Problems:	15% pupils are unable to attempt the field trip, 67% pupils said that it is time consuming, 25% pupils are of the view that there are lack of proper materials for doing Project

Discussion

The present study was aiming at studying the educational reforms that took place in our state. It has been found that inclusion of project work in higher secondary education has many merits though there are some problems too. We will discuss the various aspects of our study in qualitative terms and on the basis of the parameters we mentioned earlier.

It is unnecessary to tell that project work is very useful for involving pupils in physical activities.

Not only physical activities but also problem solving abilities increases through project work. Students are solving many problems relating to their project work and it helps them to think freely.

Project work creating opportunity for pupils to acquire field experiences and therefore they are gaining practical experiences by travelling various places across the country.

Another significant advantage of project work is that it helps learners to develop positive attitudes towards team work as they are divided into separate groups.

Besides team work attitudes, democratic values I.e., cooperation, sympathy, unity, responsibility are also developed among learners. It is very essential for the democratic nation like ours.

Project work increases social interactions among learners. It is very effective to develop better understanding between pupils and teacher.

Moreover the above advantages, project work helps learners to get good marks in the examination. It is helping the pupils of West Bengal to compete in the national level with courage and confidence.

There are some problems too which demand attention. Poor pupils are confronting problems to attempt field trips, preparing project note books and arranging proper materials. It has also been found that project work takes lots of time.

Delimitation

This study delimits certain areas such as follows

1. This is a qualitative study.
2. This study is conducted on the basis of the data of the learners of two institutions only.
3. The study is done in short time.
4. The size of sample is not enough.

Recommendations

We recommend few points for further study:

1. Take an adequate size of sample for greater representativeness of the population.
2. It is better to give more time.
3. Objective data gathering tools should have been employed.

Conclusion

It may be concluded that inclusion of project work in the higher secondary education in west Bengal is very effective and useful. This type of reform is essential in other parts of education with the pace of time. Project work not only helps pupils for their physical development but also helps to develop psychomotor skills. If we want practical based, need based, activity based and utility based educational system then reform like project work is always welcomed. We always look forward for upcoming reforms.

References

Books & Reviews

1. Tretten, R & Zachariou, P. (1997), Learning about project based learning: Assessment of project based learning in tinkertech schools. San Rafael, CA: The autodesk, Foundation.
2. Thomas, J.W. Mergendoller, J.R. and Michaelson, A. (1999). Project based learning: A handbook for middle and high school teachers. Novato, CA: The Buck Institute.
3. Moursund, D. (1999). Project Based learning using information technology. Eugene.
4. Hertzog, N.B. (1994). Impediments to a project based and integrated Curriculum: A qualitative study of Curriculum reform.

Webs

1. www.edutopia.org
2. www.bie.org/about/what-pbl
3. www.en.wikipedia.org
4. www.ascd.org/publications/education