INCREASING STUDENTS' INTEREST IN LEARNING

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Absrtract. *Today, the education system is shifting from traditional approaches to innovative methods. One of the most pressing issues in modern education is increasing student engagement, fostering independent thinking, and encouraging creative approaches. This article examines the methods and strategies that are essential in increasing students` interest in learning.*

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Unlike traditional teaching methods, innovative techniques are gaining significant importance today. They allow students to acquire knowledge independently, gain practical experience through hands-on activities, and develop problem-solving skills in group settings. Thereby, interest of students in learning increases. Enhancing students' interest in the learning process helps them absorb knowledge effectively, actively participate in lessons, and enjoy the process of learning. To boost motivation in education, the following effective methods can be applied:

Using interactive and innovative methods

Unlike traditional teaching approaches, innovative methods such as Project-Based Learning (PBL), problem-based learning, gamification (learning through game elements) and the STEAM approach increase student engagement. These methods make students become more interested in solving real-world problems.

PBL methodology

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is an effective method that enhances student engagement, critical thinking, and makes activities more interesting. PBL allows students to integrate theory with practical exercises, applying their knowledge in

real-life situations. The following examples of PBL can be adapted for any classroom and level.

* Create your own website

*How might a price increase on apples impact certain communities` access to fresh product?

* Favourite recipes

* Global school

STEAM methodology

STEAM education integrates Science, technology, art, engineering and maths into a cohesive interdisciplinary learning approach. It is important because it fosters critical thinking, creativity and other skills. STEAM learning imparts the value of open-mindedness, curiosity and the ability to research and evaluate information critically. Here are some STEAM activities that can be done in the classroom:

* A house just right for me

*Build a bridge with paper or blocs

*Build a recycled sailboat

*Create a tornado in a jar

* Create clay animal tracks

Practical activities and experiments

Connecting theoretical knowledge to practice makes lessons more engaging and understandable. For example, students can be motivated through movement-based games and group tasks. **Theory h**elps students grasp the basics of a subject and build a strong knowledge foundation. Moreover, it develops research, analytical, and logical thinking skills and prepares students for future practical tasks.

Practical activities allow students to apply learned theoretical knowledge in real-life scenarios. They increase student engagement and makes learning more interesting, enhances decision-making, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.

Ways to ensure integration of theory and practice

PBL gives students **opportunity** to test their theoretical knowledge by solving real-world problems. **Case Studies and Role-Playing is effective for an**alyzing real-life scenarios to help students apply theoretical knowledge effectively

 Balancing individual and group work

Taking students' interests into account, providing opportunities for independent work, and encouraging teamwork can increase motivation. Group projects help develop students' communication skills and encourage collaboration. The importance of teamwork is that it enhances students' communication, idea-sharing, and problem-solving skills, increases the sense of responsibility among team members and helps develop leadership skills. Moreover, teamwork encourages students to explore different perspectives and improve coordination.

Updating the reward and assessment system

Recognizing students for active participation, creativity, and self-improvement through various incentives (certificates, bonus points, competitions) enhances their enthusiasm for learning. To update a learning reward, it is desirable to shift from generic to more personalized and culturally relevant rewards. To blend intrinsic motivation with extrinsic is also an effective way of updating reward system.

 Utilizing technology in education

Considering that the 21st century is the age of technology, the use of modern educational technologies (interactive whiteboards, video lessons) significantly increases students' interest in lessons. Because they are very interested in new gadgets.

Games and team activities

Games contribute not only to physical development but also to the formation of intellectual and social skills. These games serve as an effective means of increasing student engagement, motivation, and teamwork abilities. They enhance students' interest in lessons, develops focus, quick thinking, and problem-solving

skills, teaches teamwork, communication, and collaboration. Furthemore, team-based exercises encourage socialization and improve students' ability to collaborate.

Story-based movement games that are suitable for younger students, foster creativity through play. **Creating new games** helps students to be able to design their own game rules, encouraging innovation.

Mathematical and logical movement games teach students to solve problems in a playful, active way.

Through interactive language-learning games students can learn vocabulary easily.

To boost students' interest in education, it is crucial to apply innovative approaches that align with their interests and needs. By integrating project-based learning, hands-on activities, and interactive methods, students' engagement can be significantly enhanced.

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