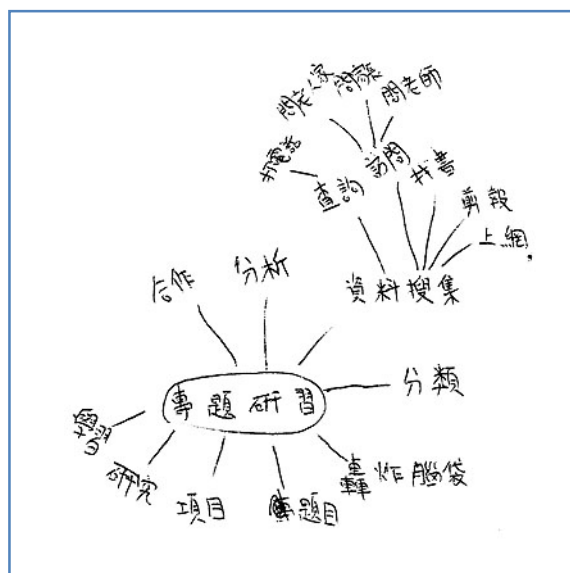


Inquiry Approach (Secondary 1 - 3)

The Use of Project Work in Developing Inquiry Learning in A Local Secondary School

Introduction

A project curriculum comprising a series of mini-projects is set up in the school for all S1-3 classes. Within every three to four school cycles, students are required to carry out an inquiry-based mini-project. The curriculum focuses on the learning process of the students and emphasizes the development of skills (e.g. project skills, IT skills), values and attitudes (such as collaborative spirit, and active involvement in learning) rather than the acquisition of academic knowledge.



Concept map on project learning developed by a student



Students tasting tea during a project lesson
- a motivation activity for the project "Tea and Culture"

Learning Objectives

- To develop the generic skills of problem-solving, critical thinking, using IT and creativity
- To strengthen students' self-learning capabilities
- To enhance the collaborative spirit of the students and to cultivate in them a readiness to participate actively in learning

School Administration Strategies in Promoting Project Learning

- To create sufficient curriculum space for project learning, the school rearranges the timetable to allocate 2 periods per cycle specifically to project learning for all S1-3 classes.
- A school intranet system is also developed to provide the initial pool of materials and resources for the students to carry out their project inquiry. All the materials on the intranet are collected and developed by the teachers, but students are also requested to collect their own information and data through web searches, field trips, interviews and library visits.



Students using the School's Intranet to do their projects



Students having a group discussion during a project lesson

Learning / Teaching Process

- Students are allowed to form groups of three or four on their own.
- In groups, students are assigned a title for their mini-projects. Examples include 'Tea and Culture', 'Transport Needs of the Physically Handicapped', 'Poverty and Hunger'.
- Teachers allow students to plan their learning process and only intervene when students get into trouble.
- Students are requested to do most of their work in the two project periods so that teachers can provide immediate assistance when they encounter problems.
- Students obtain feedback from teachers in the process of data collection and compilation, work out their design and present their work to the class.
- All groups have to display their work (such as posters, models) publicly for the principal, teachers and other students to comment.
- After improvement of their designs, students' work is uploaded onto the Internet. Parents may also see their children's work.



Project reports displayed in the classrooms



Posters designed by students displayed on classroom windows facing the corridor

Impact on Learning

- Students have to apply what they have learnt before and make use of the Intranet. This helps them to link knowledge learnt at school with a life issue, to apply knowledge across KLA boundaries and improve IT skills.
- In preparing their final reports, students have to apply all the knowledge they have acquired from the Internet, field trips and site visits as well as those they have acquired in other KLAs. A typical example is the use of their knowledge in science and technology to design new transport facilities to cater for the needs of the physically handicapped.
- The self-directed inquiry process in groups provides students with more space to schedule their work, find out their own answers, communicate with each other and collaborate in their study. Their self-learning capability is strengthened.

Students' comments on project work

優
 1. 增加合作性 2. 增加創意
 3. 懂得資料搜集
 4. 懂得訪問 5. 懂得綜合資料
 6. 懂得詢問
 缺
 十分之好 沒有缺點

1) 優點: 專題研習課能讓我們做事更為深入
 細微, 能培養一個人做事的能力。
 2) 缺點: 希望能廣泛地研習。

1. 優點
 可以合作
 可以詢問
 建立及加強
 自己的語言
 能力, 又可以
 加強自己的
 創意, 所以
 拒絕應該
 怎樣去做
 好一個題
 目。
 2. 缺點
 雖然可以
 合作, 但是
 如果合作
 就會減少
 自己的創
 意, 因為一
 個人可以
 做到符合
 自己的要
 求, 但是如
 果一批人
 就會好喜
 歡那個創
 意, 可能相
 方會有責
 任對方。

①優: 學習了搜集, 訪問和上網……的技巧
 ②缺: 沒有