

Innovations

Effect of Activity, Students, Experiment and Improvisation (ASEI) Teaching Strategy on Students' Attitude in Chemistry in Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Abuja

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Abstract

The researchers investigated the effect of Activity, Students, Experiment and Improvisation(ASEI) teaching strategy on chemistry students' attitude in senior secondary schools in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The study had two research objectives which were translated into research questions and hypotheses. 160 students were sampled through purposive sampling out of 1,680 SSI Chemistry students. The study was planned up using a semi-experimental qualitative research. Chemistry students' attitude surveys provided the data for the study (CSAI).Simple percentage analysis was used to examine the research questions, and Analysis of Covariance was used to analyze the hypotheses (ANCOVA).According to the study, using the ASEI instructional strategies improves participants' attitudes toward chemistry more than using traditional techniques. The application of the ASEI classroom instruction revealed that sex had no appreciable impact on the learners' attitudes toward chemistry. It was recommended that educational institutions should emphasize the need to arouse and sustain students' attitude through the use of ASEI teaching strategy. Teachers' trainees should be given the opportunities to master the principles behind the use of ASEI teaching strategy. Teachers should adopt the use of fascinating or attractive instructional materials that will enhance the attitude of students positively.

Keywords: 1.Activity, 2.Students, 3.Experiment, 4.Improvisation,5. Attitude

1. Introduction

Science and technology education has been regarded as the universal foundation for economic progress and stability in a number of countries. Previously, only the most gifted students were encouraged to pursue science-related courses as science was regarded as a form of knowledge only available to a select few (Abdullahi, 2019). Because of its importance in economic stability, chemistry is one of the most significant topics.

Chemistry is at the heart of global economic development that is both sustainable and long-term. Food (fertilizers and pesticides), clothing (textile fibers), buildings (cement, concrete, steel, bricks), medicine (drugs), and transportation all benefit from it (fuel, alloy materials). Man is currently living in a period of scientific and technical growth that has an impact on his existence in some way. Because of its nature, chemistry is a popular topic among Nigerian senior secondary school students. It satisfies the majority's demands by being relevant and functional in terms of both substance and utilization.

A lot of countries, like Nigeria, are in desperate desires of an operational Chemistry as a subject that can aid their growth. The process of bringing manufacturing inventories and sculpturing, among other things, is influenced by chemistry (Hornby, 2019). The attitude of students determines their academic progress. In the teaching and learning of chemistry, attitude is a powerful component that can motivate students to participate in classroom experiments and improve their grades. Outward behavior expresses an internal sensation called attitude. It has ramifications for the student, the teacher, and the social group with which the student interacts. A person's attitude is created as a result of a variety of learning experiences. They can also be learned by simply following a parent, teacher, or friend's example or advice. This is mimicry or imitation, which has a place in the teaching and learning process. In this way, the student draws from his teachers; attitudes to build his own, which may have an impact on his performance (Balozi & Njunge, 2018).

The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST), in collaboration with the Japanese government, launched the Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education (SMASSE) project in Nigeria to improve chemistry students' learning and achievement. SMASSE is for Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education, and it is an educational program whose main goal is to help Nigerian secondary schools enhance their science and mathematics achievement. It's a collaboration between the Nigerian Government's Ministry of Education and the Japanese government's Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

SMASSE was founded after persistently low accomplishment in mathematics and science (biology, chemistry, and physics) became a severe problem. Broad curricula, a lack of facilities, and insufficient staffing have all been mentioned as important causes of students' low achievement in Chemistry (CEMASTEA, 2018). The Ministry of Education and other stakeholders recognized the need for action, which led to the Secondary School Mathematics and Science Strengthening Initiative (Nui & Wahome, 2019).

This was accomplished through teacher in-service education and training (INSET). It is a seminar designed to teach teachers how to employ the Activity, Students, Experimentation, and Improvisation teaching methods in their classrooms. The proposal appears to be an ideal solution for Nigeria's situation, as the country has traditionally struggled with limited educational resources. The SMASSE initiative employs the ASEI teaching strategy as a method of instruction (Nui & Wahome, 2019). Activity, Student-centered, Experiment, and Improvisation (ASEI) is an acronym for Activity, Student-centered, Experiment, and Improvisation.

It is a teaching method that tries to make classroom instruction more student-centered. As a result, the paradigm shifts from "banning style and chalk and talk" to "activity-based/student-centered approach" is taking place. As an intervention method, ASEI considers how children develop their own meanings for words rather than merely copying them. They must be provided the opportunity to develop their knowledge of science through the combination of experience, material from the past, and ways of thinking.

As a methodological fundamental shift, the classroom ASEI teaching approach is already attracting considerable interest. Different authors appear to define student centered teaching differently, with some equating it with active learning and others interpreting it more broadly to include active learning, choice in learning, and a shift in authority from the teacher to the student (Nui & Wahome, 2019). The procedures for the ASEI teaching

strategy, according to the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) 2018, are as follows: the teacher divides the students into groups as soon as he enters the classroom to teach; he divides the entire class into various groups with the goal of doing the practical or activities together.

The instructor divides the students into groups based on their abilities and traits; the teacher asks the students to name the materials on the tables before the lesson begins; the teacher places instructional materials on the tables for each group before the lesson begins. He will ask the students to identify these resources in their groups; the teacher will instruct the students on how to carry out the activities: the teacher will instruct the students on how to carry out the activities during class. He instructs the pupils by outlining the steps they must take to complete the exercise successfully. As the activity progresses, students who are perplexed are welcome to ask questions. The teacher instructs the students to submit their results or observations in groups, the group leaders read their findings or observations to the entire class, and the teacher then thoroughly explains the contents:

After the presentations, the teacher begins to teach based on the lesson's goals or behavioral objectives; he then evaluates the lesson based on the behavioral objectives, which is done by the teacher asking the students oral questions to see if the lesson's objectives are met; and finally, he concludes the lesson by assigning homework to be turned in the following class. It was revealed that pupils exhibit a negative attitude toward chemistry learning. Low student accomplishment and a negative attitude have been related to a variety of variables, including instructors' qualifications, instructional methods, teachers' competency, student attitude, and teachers' lack of improvisational abilities, among others. Despite the multiple elements cited as contributing to the negative attitude about the subject, the issue remains with the teaching approach employed in lesson delivery. One of the most common solutions used to address the problem outlined above is the ASEI strategy. The initiative has received a significant amount of financial and material resources. However, little is known about how well students performed when the ASEI method was employed to teach chemistry. As a result, the question becomes: to what extent does the technique improve students' chemical achievement? As a result, the researcher was inspired to look into the impact of the ASEI approach on students' attitudes about chemistry in the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja.

2. Objectives of the Study

The primary goal of this research was to determine the impact of the ASEI teaching technique on students' achievement and attitudes in Senior Secondary School chemistry in the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja.

The study's objectives are as follows:

- a. determine the Mean difference between students who learned chemistry utilizing the ASEI teaching style and those who learned it the traditional way.
- b. calculate the average difference between male and female learners' attitudes about chemistry after applying the ASEI teaching technique.

3. Research Questions

The study gives responses to the research questions.

- a. What is the mean attitude rating difference between learners taught chemistry by using ASEI teaching strategy and those instructed using the conventional process?
- b. What is the mean difference between the attitude ratings of male and female students towards chemistry after being taught Chemistry using the ASEI teaching strategy?

4. Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁: there is no significant difference between the mean attitude ratings of students taught chemistry using the ASEI teaching strategy and conventional method.

H₀₂: there is no significant difference between the mean attitude ratings of male and female students towards Chemistry after being taught using ASEI teaching strategy.

5. Methods and Materials

A quasi, pre-test, post-test control group design was applied in this research. The research design for this study is a non-equivalent group quasi-experimental design. There are 1,680 SS 1 chemistry students in 18 Government Senior Secondary Schools in Abuja's Federal Capital Territory. The study used 160 SS1 science students, 95 of whom were male and 65 of whom were female, in entire classes from the four schools studied. The experimental group consisted of 74 pupils, while the control group consisted of 86 kids from two urban and two rural schools, respectively. In the experimental group, 42 students were males and 32 students were females, with 32 students from urban schools and 42 from rural schools.

In the control group, 53 pupils were boys and 33 were females, with 44 students attending urban schools and 42 attending rural schools. The Chemistry Student Attitude Inventory is a questionnaire that asks students about their attitudes toward (CSAI). An educational psychologist from the University of Abuja's department of educational psychology validated the CSAI items. The items from the Chemistry Students' Attitude Inventory (CSAI) were tested on 30 students from a government secondary school in Okpo, Kogi state. Cronbach Alpha was used to assess CSAI's dependability. The reliability co-efficient was found to be 0.88. Descriptive statistical analysis like Mean and Standard Deviations were used to provide answers to all of the research topics. 0.05 significant values were used to test each hypothesis using statistical techniques from Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA).

6. Results

6.1 Research Question 1

What is the mean difference between the attitude ratings of students taught using the ASEI teaching strategy and the conventional method towards chemistry?

Table 1: Mean Attitude Ratings and Standard Deviation of Students in Experimental and Control Groups

Groups	N	Pre-attitude		Post-attitude		Mean Gain
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Experimental	74	1.38	0.30	2.76	0.61	1.38
Control	86	1.37	0.31	1.93	0.34	0.56
Mean Difference		0.01		0.83		
Total	160					

Prior to the procedure, the experimental team's mean attitude rating was 1.38 with a standard deviation of 0.30, while the control team's was 1.37 with a standard deviation of 0.31.

Following therapy, the experimental group's mean attitude rating was 2.76, with a 0.61 standard deviation, as opposed to 1.93 and 0.34 in the normal control.

The control group gained 0.56, whereas the experimental group experienced a mean increase of 1.38 then during therapy.

When comparing the attitude ratings of the experimental and control groups prior to the procedure, the mean difference was 0.01; however, following treatment, it was 0.83.

6.2 Research Question 2

What is the mean difference between the attitude ratings of male and female students towards chemistry after being taught using the ASEI teaching strategy?

Table 2: Mean Attitude Ratings and Standard Deviation of Male and Female Students in Experimental Group

Groups	N	Pre-attitude		Post-attitude		Mean Gain
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Male	42	1.34	0.30	2.76	0.58	1.42
Female	32	1.42	0.30	2.61	0.66	1.19
Mean Difference		-0.08		0.15		
Total	74					

Table 2 shows that just before pretreatment, male participants in the experimental group had a mean attitude rating of 1.34 and a standard deviation of 0.30, whereas female students had a mean attitude rating of 1.42 and a standard deviation of 0.30.

After treatment, the mean attitude rating for male experimental class was 2.76, with a standard deviation of 0.58, while the mean attitude rating for female students was 2.61, with a standard deviation of 0.66.

According on the attitude ratings and during treatment, the mean attitude gain for men was 1.42, while the mean gain for women was 1.19.

6.3 Research Hypotheses

6.4 Research Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference between the mean attitude ratings of students taught using the ASEI teaching strategy and the conventional method towards chemistry?

Table 3: Summary of Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) of Experimental and Control Groups' Attitude Ratings towards Chemistry

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Corrected Model	11058.311 ^a	2	5529.155	222.121	.000
Intercept	17057.523	1	17057.523	685.246	.000
Pre-Attitude	10.672	1	10.672	.429	.514
Group	11055.688	1	11055.688	444.136	.000
Error	3908.133	157	24.893		
Total	356939.000	160			
Corrected Total	14966.444	159			

Table 3 shows the results of an ANCOVA analysis of data from the attitude inventory of students taught chemistry using the ASEI teaching technique against those taught using the traditional teaching method.

The null hypothesis was rejected based on the results of the study, $F(1,157) = 444.136, p0.05$.

This suggests that there is a statistically significant difference in the mean attitude evaluations of students taught using the ASEI teaching approach against those taught using the traditional method toward chemistry, favoring the ASEI teaching strategy. This also suggests that the experimental group's attitude rating was higher than the control groups.

6.5 Research Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference between the attitude ratings of male and female students towards chemistry after being taught using the ASEI teaching strategy?

Table 4: Summary of Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) of Male and Female Students' Attitude Ratings in Chemistry

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Corrected Model	1.962 ^a	2	.981	2.744	.071
Intercept	9544.085	1	9544.085	26689.825	.000
Pre-attitude	1.913	1	1.913	5.350	.024
Gender	.002	1	.002	.005	.945
Error	25.389	71	.358		
Total	225420.000	74			
Corrected Total	27.351	73			

Table 4 illustrates the results of an ANCOVA analysis of data obtained from male and female students who were taught chemistry using the ASEI teaching technique. The null hypothesis was accepted since $F(1,71) = 0.005$, $p > 0.05$, according to the analysis. This suggests that after being taught utilizing the ASEI teaching technique, there is no statistically significant difference in male and female senior secondary school students' attitudes toward chemistry. This also suggests that after being taught utilizing the ASEI teaching technique, male and female students' views about chemistry improved practically equally.

7. Summary of Findings

The following conclusions were drawn from the study's data analysis:

- a. Students in the experimental group who were taught chemistry using the ASEI teaching approach had higher attitude ratings (2.76) than students in the control group who were taught chemistry using the traditional teaching method (1.93). This was noteworthy from a statistical standpoint.
- b. The attitude ratings of male and female students taught chemistry utilizing the ASEI teaching technique showed no statistically significant differences. In terms of attitude, they experienced nearly similar improvements.

8.0 Discussion of Findings

According to the study, ASEI teaching methods significantly improved learners' attitudes about chemistry. According to Table 1, pupils in the experimental class and control class had mean attitude ratings of 1.38 and 1.37, which is between, before therapies, with corresponding standard deviations of 0.30 and 0.30. However, following treatment, these pupils' mean attitude ratings were 2.76 and 1.93, including both, with commensurate standard

deviations of 0.61 and 0.34. Before and after treatment, there was a 0.01 and 0.83 difference in the attitude ratings between the experimental and control groups. This clearly reveals that students in the experimental group improved more than students in the control group in terms of attitude ratings. In addition, the p value of 0.00 in Table 3's test of hypothesis results indicated that there was a significant difference in the attitude evaluations of students in the experimental and control groups in chemistry. This demonstrates that employing the ASEI teaching technique dramatically improves students' attitudes toward chemistry. This finding is consistent with Lawal,(2019) findings from a study titled "attitude toward learning and performance in chemistry among students in selected secondary schools in Bureti district, Kenya," which found that students who are taught using the ASEI teaching strategy develop a positive attitude toward chemistry.

Table 2 also shows that before treatment, male and female students had mean attitude ratings of 1.34 and 1.42, respectively, with corresponding standard deviations of 0.30 and 0.30, whereas after treatment, male and female students had mean attitude ratings of 2.76 and 2.61, respectively, with corresponding standard deviations of 0.58 and 0.66. The difference in male and female students' mean attitude ratings before and after treatment was -0.08 and 0.15, respectively, demonstrating that male and female students' attitudes do not change significantly after being taught chemistry using the ASEI teaching technique. This was further verified by Table 4's test of analysis, which had a p-value of 0.94. This confirms that there was no statistically significant difference in male and female students taught chemistry utilizing the ASEI teaching technique in terms of attitude evaluations.

9.0 Conclusion

From the study which is titled the "effect of Activity, Students, Experiment and Improvisation (ASEI) teaching strategy on students' attitude in chemistry in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, it was firstly concluded that students that were taught chemistry using ASEI teaching method had positive attitude when exposed to the treatment as compared to those in the control group.

Secondly, the application of the Activity, Students, Experiment and Improvisation (ASEI) teaching strategy revealed that gender had no significant impact on students' attitude and achievement in chemistry. When students were exposed to the treatment, it was concluded that both genders (males and females) had almost the same scores. This means that, there is no significant impact of Activity, Students, Experiment and Improvisation (ASEI) teaching strategy on students' attitude and achievement.

10.0 Recommendations

- a. Educational institutions should emphasize the importance of using the ASEI teaching technique to arouse and maintain students' attitudes.
- b. Teachers should be given opportunities to learn the ideas behind using the ASEI teaching strategy.
- c. Teachers should employ exciting or appealing educational resources that will positively affect students' attitudes.

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