

Innovations in English Language Teaching and General Studies Education

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Abstract

Throughout the years there were several adjustments within the manner English language and General Studies practise is planned and conveyed in various portions of the sector. In English language teaching, advancement can display up as any other displaying philosophy, instructional hypothesis, methodological method, instructing or appraisal gadget, learning or instructional tool and when accomplished can spark off higher understudy mastering and dedication. The focal factor of this paper is at the investigation of development in English language educating and getting to know situations on the tertiary degree within the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The creative physical activities proper now on homeroom, authoritative and taking in encounters from one of the three government tertiary institutions inside the UAE—the Higher Colleges of Technology. This paper starts with the muse of a meaning of improvement and being innovative in General English language educating. What's more, General Studies coaching. What follows is a portrayal of the existing fame of development in English language and General Studies training inside the vicinity and later on takes a gander at tendencies which are right now being actualized. The paper closes with destiny developments on the instructive skyline.

Keywords: Innovation, English language teaching, General Studies education, gamification, combined gaining knowledge of.

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1. Defining Innovation in Education

In instructive settings around the arena, everybody nowadays is endeavoring to be creative of their have a look at halls as they need their understudies to be all in favour of their personal learning. Advancement for a few basically implies doing what's nice for all understudies, to initiate their hobby approximately studying and discover processes to preserve understudies intrigued and locked in. For different humans, it implies furnishing them with the devices and facts they must be viable and efficient 21st Century college students. A regularly traditional meaning of development and how it applies to schooling has been superior by means of the Society of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education [1, pp. 1].

The act of a success and full-size teaching can income highly whilst teachers keenly try to practice

new or unique educational methodologies, improvements, curricular upgrades, path plan and affiliation and opinions.

In gradually oversimplified phrases, improvement can likewise be characterized as "the manner toward making adjustments to something installation with the aid of presenting some thing new" [2, pp. 3]. Advancement is tied in with supporting institutions broaden. In commercial enterprise terms, improvement is often estimated as far as turnover and advantage, however can likewise show up in facts, in human revel in, and in effectiveness and great. It is these ultimate ideas that relate improvement to instruction [3, pp. 2].

In guidance today, professionals are of the realization that the term 'advancement' is an abused one [4, 5, 6] or a famous expression that infers a chief achievement. At its center, notwithstanding, is that

development is the matching of tried and attempted plans to yield new results. Two superb non-instructive instances of this motive incorporate the vehicle and Apple innovation. In the previous, production line mechanical manufacturing structures and motors formerly existed, Henry Ford changed into the individual who had the knowledge to enroll in the 2. In the remaining mentioned, Steve Jobs began a mechanical unrest with the aid of becoming a member of simple to-make use of versatile innovation interfaces with natural programming [6]. Along these traces, to enhance is to appearance beyond what

we're as of now doing and building up every other, unique concept that reasons us to perform our obligation in some other way [3]. Whatever definition you've got of development, it maximum possibly is related with terms like exchange, some thing new, as well as some thing precious or powerful.

2. Innovation in Education

For an person, a rustic and humanity to undergo and strengthen during normal existence, development is fundamental. Development in preparation is specifically substantial considering the fact that education assumes a pressing task in making an affordable future [7]. The requirement for instructive improvement has gotten intense as "it's far broadly frequent that countries' social and monetary prosperity will depend to an ever-greater distinguished degree on the character in their citizens' education and the rise of a intended 'data society' [7, pp. 5]. As indicated by way of a record by way of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, "the stress to construct cost and improve instructive effects for understudies is developing a long way and extensive" [8, pp. 3] which consequently presses foundations to advance. Development in education is typically comprehended as "the effective presentation of another aspect or method" [9, pp.5]. In this way, Brewer and Tierney have set out a 3-level advancement plan for training which they feel calls for 3 things: a idea, its utilization, and the result that consequences from the execution of the thought and creates a change [9, pp.5].

3. Key Areas for the Promotion of Educational Innovation

Paniagua [10] has prominent three key zones inside the advancement of educating improvement. The first is the conviction that the social and being concerned nature of getting to know is the regular tenet assisting creative exercise. This implies instructors ought to dispense the time and property essential to permit students to collaborate and take a look at. The activity of the trainer is at the reducing part simply because the companions' must conceive educators as champions inside the advancement of increasingly more intuitive and worrying institutions with understudies [9].

The 2nd key sector as set forth with the aid of Paniagua [10] worries teachers and their practices. It is crucial that teachers audit their very own practices on the way to apprehend and higher adjust their imaginative, instinctive and character limits with creative instructional methods. Having the essential framework systems set up to purpose educators to incorporate, in place of acclimatize, new practices into their series of schooling gadgets and plans is the third key region.

One more region that can be utilized to increase instructive development is that of innovation, in particular gamification. With the rise of available mobile smartphone innovation, the Internet and simplicity PCs and PCs, there may be the opportunity of conveying understudy targeted identifying how to underneath-served human beings and networks in an green and inventive way. Advancement the usage of innovation and gamification is a key aspect of development within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), maximum specifically inside the Gulf international locations [3].

These 4 key elements display that it's so vital to have the vital ceaseless professional development initiatives to help educators in encouraging the aptitudes have to were inventive just as the knowledge to advance development in their homerooms.

4. The Educational Context

A. English Language Teaching within the UAE

The Arabian Peninsula, and particularly the Gulf location, comprises of nations whose economies have trusted oil introduction all through the previous 50 years. These international locations are Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE. All were ex-states of the British Empire, aside from KSA. Because of their colonization, English has assumed a massive job in their instructive frameworks. These countries have placed a ton in coaching and feature sent a first-rate deal in their citizens abroad to examine at first rate faculties in specific English-speaking international locations. They have likewise placed resources into the nearby development of coaching in particular that of English language training, as English is a maximum broadly used language, and the language of business. There are many exile teachers from numerous countries around the globe who've been teaching EFL within the Gulf nations for a long term as there are an first rate quantity of schools which might be English medium simply and now not most of the close by citizens move into tertiary educating as a vocation [3, pp. 6].

Most tertiary degree education within the Gulf is government financed and loose for all nationals of those countries. Training is additionally prevalently isolated. Until as of late, have a look at hall sizes have been commonly little and variety from 15 to 30 understudies. Study halls on the university stage are incredibly mechanical situations, wherein grounds are for the maximum component far flung and English language instructors are advised to use but an awful lot innovation within the take a look at hall as should moderately be predicted. Homerooms are equipped with projectors or probably smartboards and in numerous tertiary level groups the two educators and understudies are supplied with PCs in addition to iPads to use in magnificence at some point of their training. To help the utilization of innovation inside the homeroom, schools are transferring without end from normal reading material to a greater noteworthy usage of virtual books, publications are currently completely gotten to on Learning

Management Systems like Moodle and Blackboard amongst others. The utilization of instructive innovation is pervasive in all of the instructive imaginative and prescient reasons of the Gulf countries (Bahrain 2030, KSA Vision 2030, Kuwait Vision 2035, Oman Vision 2040, and UAE 2020/2021) much like the concept of being more and more imaginative in steering [3, pp. 7].

Among the severa improvements in ELT as of past due, the most oft refered to are within the zones of innovation, appraisal and coaching approach [11]. In a extent co-altered by way of Alshahrani and Ally [12] on changing training inside the Gulf location, the components middle round developing getting to know improvements and traits in educational method for the twenty first century. A portion of the exploration based totally points remembered for this volume are innovation and versatile upgraded mastering, mixed gaining knowledge of, the flipped study hall, the utilization of internet based totally life in teaching just as savvy examine halls and MOOCs in schooling.

Undoubtedly, that is some other vicinity of development inside the locale. Test improvement, execution and benchmarking the exhibition levels of the instructive framework at exceptional ranges is likewise demonstrative of what has been taking place the appraisal scene inside the Gulf, specifically inside the UAE. Since 2008, the UAE has taken an hobby in numerous global checks to investigate and benchmark the exhibition ranges of its instruction framework. These exams incorporate PISA (Program for International Student Assessment), TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) and PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study). It should be observed that in the end, the UAE were given pinnacle positions within the Arab international in accordance with the National Agenda which requires the nation to rank many of the major 20 in PISA with the aid of 2021 [13].

B. Institutional Context and the Importance of Innovation

In 2015, the UAE authorities recommend a country wide 'UAE Innovation Strategy' which characterized

development as "the craving of people, non-public organizations and governments to accomplish advancement with the aid of generating resourceful thoughts and offering new objects, administrations and sports that improve the overall private delight." [14, pp. 5].

Since the introduction of the country in 1971, the United Arab Emirates has usually been diagnosed as a symbol for advancement and inventiveness. With a firm conviction that advancement is the eventual fate of human assignment, the UAE initiative underlines its significance over all divisions but the UAE Vision 2021: "Development, studies, technological know-how and innovation will frame the mainstays of an information based, tremendously profitable and extreme economy, pushed by using commercial enterprise human beings in a enterprise-accommodating situation wherein open and private segments structure effective.

other. Two teachers monitored the teams' activities and graded the live submissions. The top three winners received gift vouchers. Picture 2 shows an image of this activity.



PICTURE 2: GAMIFY YOUR CAMPUS

2) Gamified Activity 2: The Art of Sustainability

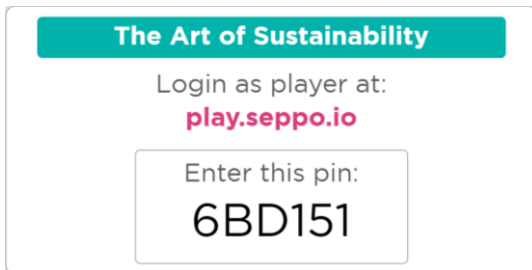
The second gamified activity was based off campus while teachers were monitoring live students' movement through the tasks. One of the important course requirements that students take in the General Studies Division is an 'Introduction to Sustainability' course. Students learn about the three elements of sustainable living which include economic, social, and the environment. The Dubai Design District often hosts events that are closely related to the topics students learn about in the course. One such event was a gallery entitled 'The Art of Sustainable Construction by Foster and Partners'. Models of sustainable buildings and projects were displayed. As the game designer, I took pictures of the models and developed a gamified activity using SEPP0. The game was open for five days and the competition was announced for all General Studies students. By completing these game challenges students learned about sustainable construction from a global perspective. Picture 3 illustrates the gamified task that took place at the Dubai Design District.



PICTURE 1: SEPP0- A GAMIFICATION PLATFORM
([HTTPS://SEPP0.IO/EN/](https://seppo.io/en/))

1) Gamified Activity 1: Gamify Your Campus

Using the SEPP0 platform of collaborative teams, a set of tasks were created around the campus as an orientation task. Four sections competed against each



PICTURE 3: THE ART OF SUSTAINABILITY

B. The Seminar in the Sands

The Seminar in the Sands was an applied research seminar in the desert where students and faculty interacted in an informal setting. Students and faculty planned the event and invited all students in the program to attend after classes were over. Students and faculty discussed main topics that were taught during the semester. The innovative aspect in such as activity was in changing the classroom environment from the formal classroom setting into an informal open desert setting that was familiar to students and allowed them to feel more relaxed and build trust with their teachers. Because teaching faculty come from 12 different nationalities, students had the opportunity to learn many cross-cultural traditions including how a barbeque is done the American and Iranian way.

Building trust and rapport is an important part of a successful educational environment and such events helped create an atmosphere of confidence and a sense of belonging for both students and faculty who come from different cultures. An added rationale for the inclusion of this activity was the fact that students often cite a desire for ‘getting away from the classroom routine and out into the real world’ as a suggested activity in their Student Evaluations of Teaching. Picture 4 shows the Seminar in the Sands

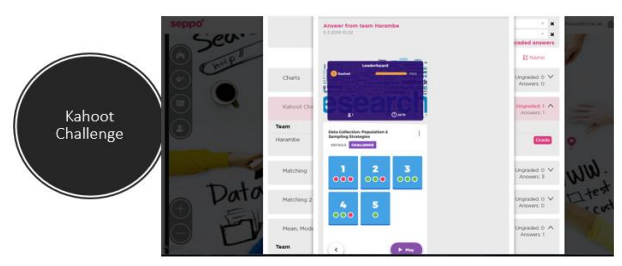
activities that took place.



PICTURE 4: SEMINAR IN THE SANDS

C. Team Competitions

Two competitions were developed to help students prepare for their midterm exams. The content for the competitions was based on the study guides and materials provided for student review. Using their mobile phones, students went to the Innovation Space and first had the choice to form their own teams as they played a Kahoot Challenge (<https://kahoot.it>). The teacher displayed the questions and monitored the game. The second collaborative game was run on Quizlet Live. Students entered the Quizlet Live site (<https://quizlet.com/features/live>) and teams were randomly created. As such, students had to meet new team members and learn quickly to collaborate effectively with new team members. The Kahoot Challenge is shown in Picture 5 and Quizlet Live is displayed in Picture 6.



PICTURE 5: COLLABORATIVE TEAM COMPETITION USING KAHOOT CHALLENGE



PICTURE 6: COLLABORATIVE TEAM COMPETITION USING QUIZLET LIVE

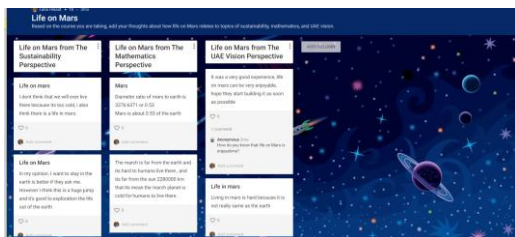
The provision of incentives are an important element of competitive and gamified learning. Therefore, students received awards for the top three winners as announced in the Kahoot Challenge and Quizlet Live. The incentives were based on what the General Studies Division had access to offer. So, it included a gift voucher, a free 3D fabrication course, and a virtual reality simulation session at the Innovation Space. Picture 7 shows the gift certificates that were created for this purpose.



PICTURE 7: EXAMPLE OF INCENTIVES

D. Virtual Reality Discussion

Another innovative activity that the students engaged in was a virtual reality discussion. Students watched a virtual reality simulation in the Innovation Space and used the virtual reality goggles. In small groups and based on their majors, they discussed the topic of life on Mars from the sustainable aspect, mathematics, and the country's vision. The UAE has done tremendous work on space exploration to Mars and such an initiative is important for local Emirati students to understand. Discussion questions were based on the perspective of the class attending: sustainability, mathematics, and life and study skills. Ideas were collected on a Padlet board for display.



PICTURE 8: LIFE ON MARS VIRTUAL REALITY DISCUSSIONS PADLET

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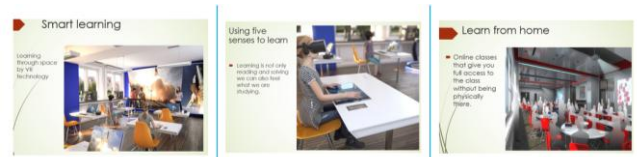


<https://padlet.com/lanahiasat2/r35cdwh3mvf7>.

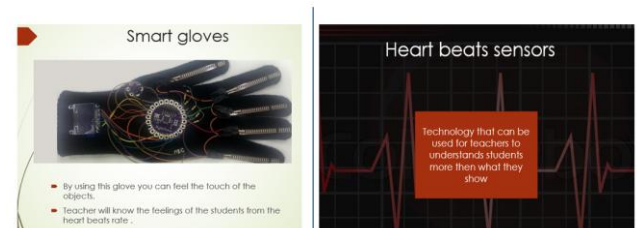
E. Campus of the Future Competition

The final activity described in this paper took place as part of the students' Life and Study Skills course. One of the objectives of this course was for students to apply future thinking strategies to create 3D models of what smart learning looks like to them and what a campus of the future should be. Some of the basic tenets of the competition was that students believed that the learning environment of the future should include virtual reality technology, different zones for learning tasks, and the use of technology for how they feel during certain activities.

Students discussed how smart gloves that monitor their heart rate as an indication of how they feel could help educators in designing activities that would engage and be less stressful for the student.



WHAT STUDENTS THINK SMART LEARNING LOOKS LIKE



PICTURE 9: SMART LEARNING

FUTURE INITIATIVES: NEXT STEPS IN INNOVATIVE PRACTICE*a) International Collaborations and Fieldtrips*

The General Studies Division has set a number of future innovative educational initiatives for the coming academic year. Collaboration among and between teachers and students from other institutions figures prominently on this list. As such, we plan to organize an international exchange of best practice in innovation with a sister institution. Our target for this next year is a teacher-to-teacher exchange whereby faculty from our department travel to another institution to share what we do with our students and learn about what their faculty do with their students. We hope that we will eventually be able to organize an international teacher-student collaborative event. Fieldtrips are a type of experiential learning that gets students away from the traditional classroom setting and into a new mode of learning. A review of the literature on fieldtrips reveals that they are one of the most beneficial activities teachers can organize for their students as we learn by doing and remember what we have personally experienced [18].

Additional advantages associated with student fieldtrips are that students get an educational experience that they never could have had in the classroom. Students also interact with what they are learning thereby enriching and expanding the curriculum. A final and perhaps most important advantage of international fieldtrips is that they help expand students' horizons and increase their intercultural competence and intelligence [18].

b) Events that Break the Classroom Routine

Due to the success of the Seminar in the Sands, we plan to organize more events that get our students outside the classroom to change their routine and expose them to experiential learning through innovative practice. These events will be linked to core General Studies courses and will include innovative tasks and activities as part of their student engagement. A Seminar at Sea is already in the works where we plan to go out on the water for a day! A wish list activity of our department would be a

week-long cruise with our students and faculty to serve as chaperones. Of course, this activity would require a lot of administrative and financial support.

c) Emotional Intelligence Interdisciplinary Collaboration

A final activity for the coming academic year is a two-year project on researching our students' emotional intelligence skills and offering them interventions on how to acquire or increase the skills they are found to be lacking. Elements of gamification and innovation will be built into the intervention phase of this project.

Conclusion

It is clear not simply from the sporting activities included proper now additionally from the writing referred to, that improvement in English language educating and getting to know inside the UAE is an essential practice that is digging in for the long haul. Creative instructing, gaining knowledge of and appraisal rehearses are perfectly healthful inside the district and are happening in for all intents and purposes all tiers of English language teaching and gaining from simple faculty to university to grown-up training regions. It is the choice of the creators to share their endeavors at development within the expectations that their sporting events will add to the statistics base in the subject of development inside the UAE.

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