

Fostering Student Interest in Senior Secondary Two Biology Using Prior Knowledge of Behavioural Objectives and Assertive Questioning Strategies in Benue State, Nigeria

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Abstract : The study investigated ways of fostering students' interest in senior secondary two Biology, using prior knowledge of behavioural objectives and assertive questioning strategies in Benue State of Nigeria. A quasi-experimental research design was adopted; the population comprised 8,571 senior Secondary two students. The sample consisted of 265 SSII biology students selected from six government schools in the study area using a multi-staged sampling technique. Data was generated using the Biology Interest Inventory (BII). The instrument was validated and subjected to reliability analysis using Cronbach's Alpha formula, which yielded a coefficient of 0.73. Three research questions guided the study, while three hypotheses were formulated and tested. Data collected were analyzed using means, bar graphs, and standard deviations to answer the research questions, while analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) was employed in testing the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The finding revealed that there is a significant difference in the mean interest ratings of students taught cellular respiration and excretory system using assertive questioning strategy, prior knowledge of behavioural objectives strategy and lecture method ($p=0.000<0.05$). There is no significant difference in the mean interest ratings of male and female students taught cellular respiration and excretory systems using an assertive questioning strategy ($p=0.790>0.05$). There is significant difference in the mean interest ratings of male and female students taught cellular respiration and excretory system using prior knowledge of behavioural objectives strategy ($p=0.028<0.05$). It was recommended, among others, that teachers should endeavor to utilize prior knowledge of behavioral objectives strategy in teaching biology in order to harness its benefits as it enhances students' interest.

Keywords : interest, assertive, questioning, prior, knowledge

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