



Exploring the Impact of Teaching Literature in Secondary Schools in Bauchi State

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ABSTRACT

Literature possesses rich heritage, it teaches us about life by exposing us to the lives of different people through their stories, literature is widely learned and discussed in schools. Literature holds a prominent role in student's personal development since the reader becomes emotionally attached with the story. This paper looks at the constraint of teaching literature in secondary Schools in Bauchi State; it provides a guide for the teachers and concerned body on how to extend the students beyond examination. The study submits that recreational activities in schools will promote students' consciousness. Literature teaches us what life is all about. Literature should be an essential component of every secondary curriculum and should not merely be included at the whim of the teachers or just past a time. The findings from the study revealed that competent teachers and relevant textbooks will promote the study of literature in secondary schools.

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INTRODUCTION

Literature is important because it develops critical thinking skills, fosters empathy for others, reduces stress and develop readers personal experiences, it can also be a leaning tool for subjects including medicine, history, law, sociology, English, psychology etc. It engages the readers in an active leaning style, literature promotes intellectual engagement and stimulation with the introduction of new concepts, people can learn about their identities and history through literature, through close reading, students develop sophisticated vocabulary.

Literature sharpens their critical thinking skills and learns to communicate effectively orally and in writing. Students who learn literature become more proficient at reading, comprehending and analyzing text from a variety of sources including news and reports, students who read literature are often good candidates on certain courses in Nigeria University, collages of education such as Law, English Language,

literature, mass communication etc. Many employers also note the benefits that reading literature translates to their employees, including increased empathy and the ability to think creatively, literature opens doors to new experiences and opportunities, which in turn expands the readers world view. Reader might learn to become more sensitive to the needs of others.

Reading literature in general, makes people more interesting to talk. Obviously, it is true that, people cannot be separated from their culture because it is regarded as a complete or total way of people's life. Thus, literature, literature is also a complex concept that is operate both the people and their culture, literature is concern with people language, religion, tradition, education, traditional occupation, marriages etc. it is therefore dynamics in nature to suit the over changing situation.

Education is considered to be a norm, a policy and an institution it is something that is imperative for the survival of the human being. A

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human being who is not educated will indeed face problems and difficult in accomplishing the goals and targets which is paramount for existence. Education means possessing the knowledge, information, in another way becoming aware of the ideas, education is a high-rate public venture used as an instrument par excellence in national development.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The standard of education in Nigeria today is gradually falling especially literature in English in most secondary schools in Bauchi State, at the moment, the quality and quantity of teaching of literature in English in our secondary schools in Bauchi State are inadequate, thus leading to a lots of argument among scholars, civil servants, educational planners etc, as to what is the immediate and remote causes of the failure and the factors hindering high standard of teaching literature in secondary schools. This research is to help teachers with effective methods of teaching English literature, which comprise, method of teaching literature, adequate teaching materials, availability of relevant textbooks, mastery of the subject 'literature', and teachers at the subjects.

Objective(s) of the Study:

The primary aims of this study are to investigate the effective method of teaching literature in English in secondary schools with a view of the followings;

1. To find out the method used by the teachers in teaching English literature.
2. To find out the factors to be considered before selection of teaching.
3. To find out how the method of teaching effect students' performance.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concepts of "literature" has become one of the most important subjects' areas of study all over the world. As an umbrella term (Moddy, 1971), teaching secondary school students' literature the first time can be demanding and intimidating however, if you are well preparing the idea of the teaching secondary schools, literature

should be fun and exciting. To teach literature, in secondary school incorporate strategies that work at the school level find ways to maintain a positive class environment development a teaching strategy that is comfortable for you and decide a lesson that meet your school, requirement. By learning literature students learn to see a world through others eyes observing human values and a different kind of living discovering others living in every society, they will understand and become broadly aware of the social, political, historical, cultural events happening in a certain society. Through literature students can deepen their cultural understanding.

Consequently, the primary aim of literature is to give pleasure entertain those who attend to it, therefore, literature review is considering the backbone of any nations. It plays an essential raw and creating a new generation capable of ending the life style and develops in culture which can coverable suit their whims and caprices and which in line with the global standard. Literature is writing for those who are sensitive and a high sense of Self-esteem, the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to be found in literature occurs where it bring back to the realities of human situations, problems feelings and relationship (Moody 1981) literature texts so often torch on common themes and valves which range from individual concerns to social issues such as death, love, ethnic, conflict, corruption indiscipline and other related others. Literature provides students with important comprehensive and analysis tools.

Through literature students learn to identify and analyze conflicts, themes and characters. Good text weather classes or modern literature contain some universal themes which applied to the student's presents and feature life, literature is also entry way into another culture. More ever learning literature in able students to understand and appreciate cultures and ideologies differences from their own in time and space, and to come to perceive tradition of thought, feelings and artistic form within the heritage the culture of such cultures endows (Carter 8 Long, 1991, p2) based on literature discussion, the students should develop insightful



responses concerning literal comprehension, personal connection, cross culture, themes, interpretation and animation of the text.

Literature can also act as a powerful change agent by developing students' intercultural awareness and most secondary school are expected to organize and perform dramas and other activities which will envelop students from different background into a single confine circle, theoretical speaking, can play a useful part in developing general language skills because the basic goal of teaching literature in our secondary school is to facilitate the learning of language and communication skills. Students who study literature are read for pleasure have a higher vocabulary for more better reading comprehension and better communication skills such as writing ability communication skills affect when students analyze literature, there length to identify course and effect and are applying critical thinking skills . Without realizing it they examine the characters psychological or sociologically.

The study of literature encourages empathy to learn for diversity, imagination, and emotional intelligence which understands of feelings. A piece of literature act on emotions interest remain in their memorize because represent the particular voice of the writer among the many voice of his/her communities and those to appeal the particular in a reader" (Kramch. 2010, 131) literature provides pleasure to listeners and readers. It is a relaxing escape from daily problems and it fills leisure moment. Making time for recreational reading and using high quality, according to a Rosenblath (1995, 175), the power of literature to offer entertainment and recreation, still its prime reason for survival" literature views experiences; students expand their horizons through different experiences.

They visit new place, gain new experience meet new people. there learn about the past as well as the presents and new about variety of cultures, including their own, there are discover the common goals and similar emotions found in people of all times and places, Harvest of Corruption by Frank Ogodo, lonely Days by Bayo Adebowaye function well to these purposes. The central purpose of reading literature within

secondary school is to introduce students to literary reading in such a way that they can enjoy it and develop regular reading habit. Mayhead (1965) state that "imaginative writing through which writer interprets life around him in literature". This clearly shows that literature is any writing that is used to express and communicates feelings, thoughts, attitudes towards life (Rees,1993)

Literature therefore, is very exciting for children especially at their tender age excitement. For instance, if the children are introduced into literature well will enjoy it and at the same develop the culture of reading but if they are not well introduced into the literature, they will not only lose interest in reading but also be deficient in imagination and critical thinking which are crucial for reading and comprehension (Lono, 1984, Nelson,1987). Thus, the three genres of literature; drama, prose, and poetry should be taught well to children from the grassroots.

METHODOLOGY

The research design for this study is survey. The survey research is one in which a group of people or item is studied by collecting and analyzing data from a few considered to be a representative sample of the entire population (Emaikwu, 2010).

Population of the study

The target population of this research work comprises students of GGC Bauchi, GDSS Kirfi, GDSS Bogoro, special school Kafin Madaki, GDSS Darazo, GCD Misau, GDSS Azare, GDSS Gamawa, GGC Yana Shira all in Bauchi State, however three principals and three teachers and ninety-four students from the selected schools were issued a questionnaire. This therefore, formed a total number hundred people which are consulted for the information of the research.

Instrument of Data Collection

The instrument used for this research consist the following information; name of the respondent, qualification and name of the school where he/she works. The questionnaire contained ten questions for the respondent to answer. Some



options where provided, out of which the respondents choose the appropriate option.

Validation of the Instrument

The draft questionnaire was given to the researcher and other colleagues in the department to make correction and observation. The questionnaire has fifteen items before validation then after validation ten questions were reconstructed and validated.

Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the instrument was obtained from a test and re-test method through a pilot study that was obtained within an interval of two weeks.

Method of Data Collection

After secured an introductory letter, then moving into the field where copies of questionnaire were distributed and retrieved back after two weeks. This procedure successfully carried with the assistance of the staff of the schools that introduced the researcher to the

respondents and guided them on how to fill the questionnaire. However, in the beginning of each questionnaire, the researcher introduced himself to the respondents on the topic he was conducting research on it and the institution where he came from.

Method of Data Analysis

The data were gathered and analyzed to give meaning to finding, so that it could be understood and interpreted properly. Indeed, descriptive statistics of percentage and frequency count are used for this study.

Sample of the study

Sample of the study: Bauchi state has three senatorial districts and three schools were selected from each of the three zones, which comprise students of SSI, SSII and SSIII and instrument for data collection used for collection of relevant data was questionnaire, to all the schools.

RESULTS

Table: Mean rating and standard deviation of Responses of Male and Female students on exploring the impact of teaching literature in secondary school

S/N	ITEMS	X _M	X _F	X _G	SD	REMARK
1.	Do you enjoy literature class?	3.75	3.65	3.77	0.43	Agreed
2.	Is teachings literature important to your School	3.62	3.63	3.67	0.39	Agreed
3.	Is learning literature important to your course of study After finishing school?	3.67	3.58	3.69	0.41	Agreed
4.	Did literature change you in anyway?	3.60	3.63	3.66	0.41	Agreed
5.	Do you have enough literature in English teachers in your School?	3.70	3.71	3.75	0.41	Agreed
6.	Do have fear (phobia) when asked to respond after Literature classes?	3.73	3.67	3.76	0.38	Agreed
7.	Did you performed any play/Drama in your schools	3.70	3.54	3.70	0.40	Agreed
8.	Grand Total	3.65	3.65	3.70	0.40	Agreed

Keys: X_m= Mean rating of male students X_f = mean rating Female
Students X_G = Grand Mean of items, SD= Standard deviation
Table 2.2

NM = number of male students
NF= number of female students
NT= Total Number of the Population

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Text analysis or difference between mean of responses of male and female students in exploring the impact of teaching literature in secondary school and female students on exploring impact of teaching literature Bauchi State.

Responded	N	X	S ²	Z-Cal	Z-Crit	Remark
Male students	63	3.65	0.00	0.23	1.96	Accepted
Female students	24	3.65	0.00			

Keys: N= Number of respondents, X means, S² = variance Z-Cal= calculated value of z, Zcrit= Table Value

Z- Test analysis on exploring the impact or teaching literature in secondary schools. The calculated Z valve is 0.23 which is less than Z-critical of 1.96 at 05 level of significance. This shows that both male and female students have the same opinion on teaching literature in secondary school in Bauchi State.

CONCLUSION

Having going through each chapter and seen what happened in this work, the researcher then concluded that, the effective methods that can promotes children interest in literature learning in Special Schools Bauchi in particular and the nation in general cannot be slammed on single person alone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the finding, with regards to effective method of teaching and learning literature in some selected Special Schools Bauchi State, the researcher wishes to recommend the following suggestions:

1. The government should ensure that literature introduce to the young children at early stage in order to inculcate and develop the basic knowledge of physical and social relevance of literature to them and their culture.
2. Government or the responsible body like the national primary education board. National association of English literature. Teachers and others should ensure that there should be well trained and adequate junior students the foundation of the subjects.
3. Government should ensure that teachers attend seminars workshop, symposium in

services, refreshers course so as to keep abreast, with the modern trend and new innovations of technology that will assist effective teaching and learning of literature.

4. Authority should recommend textbooks for children literature that will help the children develop critical thinking socially, economically and politically for the benefit of themselves and the society in general.
5. Government should ensure that grants or special package be given to school for the purchase of instrument materials for effective teaching and learning.
6. Authority should also provide well equipped libraries to each school with relevant and recommended reading materials for children literature.
7. That both parent and teacher should encourage student to learn literature because it refines, purity and sharpen their reflective thinking.
8. That literature teachers should be motivated through providing some incentives as well as given them awards for further training.

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