

Effect of Designed Learning Package on Teaching: a Case Study

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Abstract

Learning package is one of the most notable solutions to go with the global evolution and produce the proper environment for teaching and learning. An attempt was made to investigate the effect of learning package on psychology and moral of the students and thereby in the improvement of the educational environment. The study was carried out in two main steps- preparing the learning package considering the current situation and studying the effect of learning package on psychology, moral and educational improvement of the students. A practical package was prepared for the sample region using questionnaire. The sample group was provided with the learning package. Using pre and post-test from the sample group, the educational improvement was investigated and the effect of the package on psychology and moral feelings of the group was examined using the questionnaire. The results showed that the prepared learning package suits and works for the study region. There is also notable progress in psychological, moral and educational improvement of the students.

1. Introduction

We live in an extremely fast-moving world where global changes in educational, cultural, social, and economic conditions caused by fast development of science and technology are inevitable. Therefore, institutions and organizations try to keep step with existing changes in order to be safe in today's world as this is the only way that will not lead to annihilation. The mission of Ministry of Education as one of the most effective organizations in every country is known to everyone so it is necessary that special attention be paid to the world changes by these organizations. Dynamism of education will result in people's preparation for worldwide changes. Nowadays, chalk boards are replaced by electrical and optical ones and various scientific programs are available. There is more emphasis on skill and knowledge and use of technological means and methods in learning theories as compared with the past. New educational approaches responding to learners needs have led to a new viewpoint on educational means and methods (Green, 2002). Educational package consists of resources, means and methods are organized to achieve special educational goals. Applying educational packages will result in dynamism of education and it makes the teaching-learning process various and rich. Even in the book-based educational systems, educational packages

offer appropriate strategies in the teaching-learning process. These packages can be produced on the bases of intended goals, for one educational schedule or course, or just for one lesson. Sometimes, they help teachers in teaching and make their knowledge richer, and sometimes they are focused on different learning methods. Special attention to individual and group packages increased after Fredrick Mc. Donald's report to Stanford Research and Development Center. The report indicated that teaching styles have an educational manner and teachers test students regularly to see how much they learned and memorized. Teacher is the one who asks frequently, and students do not normally ask questions. The answers are already structured and school education does not really help children to understand issues and problems. At the end of the report, Mc. Donald asks for educational methods and preparing educational courses for schools by a central organization. Scoullos et al. (2004) showed that using educational package improves students' efficiency and satisfaction. Solomon and Solomon (2009) concluded that utilizing an appropriate educational package in teaching electrochemistry enhances students' performance and enthusiasm. In another research it has been found that an educational package using Microsoft PowerPoint and macromedia flash can properly affect students' performance in the classroom. Also Anyamene (2012) come to



this result that using appropriate educational packages together with computer increase students' grades.

2. Methodology

The main objective of the present research was the study of effectiveness of educational package on students' grades and the emotional atmosphere of the classroom. In addition to this, there are some subsidiary goals as identifying strategies of preparing a functional educational package with regard to the facilities and conditions of learning environments. It will act as a survey of role of educational package in changing the centralized educational planning system and decentralization, also identifying strategies for preparing open educational package (dynamic).

3. Strategic Study

Besides designing and preparing an educational package by a base package in geography which was prepared for some educational courses by the researcher, the researcher dealt with the effectiveness of mentioned package in class motive atmosphere and educational improvement of the learners. Two questionnaires were designed about these issues. The comparison criterion is 1 to 5. The summary of the results is outlined here.

3.1. The first premise

There is a difference between the amount of educational activity and cooperation of the learners before and after applying the educational package. Results indicated that cooperation in 'test group' increased from 3.35 to 3.70; while this average in pre-test was 2.91 in 'control group' that changed into 2.87. In control group, it was witnessed 0.04 unit decrease. The *t* test indicated a significant change (Table 1).

Table 1: First premise: Educational activity and cooperation (1-5)

Test	No.	Min.	Max.	Avg.
Educational activity and cooperation, post-test	151	2.2	5	3.70
Educational activity and cooperation, pre-test	151	1	5	3.35
Educational activity and cooperation, progress	151	-0.8	1.6	0.36
Control	No.	Min.	Max.	Avg.
Educational activity and cooperation, post-test	116	1.6	4.4	2.87
Educational activity and cooperation, pre-test	116	1.6	4.4	2.91
Educational activity and cooperation, progress	116	-0.8	0.6	-0.04

3.2. The second premise

On the whole, there is a difference between the motive atmosphere of class in both groups before and after applying the educational package. Results specified that motive atmosphere of the class increased from 3.25 in pre-test to 3.51 gradually by applying the package. The average was 2.95 in the control group that did not change. (Table 2).

Table 1: First premise: Educational activity and cooperation (1-5)

Test	No.	Min.	Max.	Avg.
Motive atmosphere of class, 42 questions, post-test	151	2.26	4.83	3.51
Motive atmosphere of class, 42 questions, pre-test	151	1.4	4.83	3.25
Motive atmosphere of class, 42 questions, progress	151	-0.14	1.1	0.27
Control	No.	Min.	Max.	Avg.
Motive atmosphere of class, 42 questions, post-test	116	1.52	4.55	2.95
Motive atmosphere of class, 42 questions, pre-test	116	1.38	4.57	2.95
Motive atmosphere of class, 42 questions, progress	116	-0.14	0.17	0.00

3.3. The third premise

There is a difference between educational progress of students in control and test group before and after using the educational package.

According to the results of learners' grades, it was specified that educational progress resulted from applying the package was improved from 14.38 to 15.88. It was 14.22 in pre-test in control group that decreased to 13.84 gradually (Table 3).

Preliminary results indicated that these packages have a significant impact on students' cooperation and educational progress and improvement in motive atmosphere of classroom. The researcher prepared an educational package to carry out the research. Preparing an applicable and functional package was one of the researcher's objectives. In order to perform mentioned package, some educational packages were designed and prepared with respect to regional and local conditions. By focusing on educational centers and groups and research centers in cooperation with teachers in the regions and province, producing functional educational packages will be easier. This is one of the most important features of these packages. The packages are reviewed and improved regularly, so they can be called open and dynamic packages.

4. Impacts

Educational package is a system set. Words like packages,

pockets, sets, educational systems, etc. are its synonyms in educational science literature (Majdfar, 2004). In the view of experts in Illinois University in Chicago, educational package can be prepared in computer programs or CD which have educational content. The increase of educational package application will undoubtedly result in a significant change in education systems and will improve teaching-learning process. The impacts of educational package on learning process may be changes the teachers' and the learners' role, increases the teacher-learner interaction and enriching the school books.

Prepared package in the research features:

Developing grounds of decentralization of educational system of the country considering national unity, Islamic solidarity, Iranian identity, and territorial integrity, and increasing the capabilities of provinces.

- Changing teachers' role as effective elements in educational system.
- Preparing functional educational packages for regions and provinces with respect to the conditions and decentralization of the country.
- Replacing the vertical development system (circular system) with the horizontal one (technology transfer from teacher to teacher and from school to school).
- Giving more attention to materials prepared across the country and using them with clear aims.
- Taking steps together with technology changes and being up to date.
- Developing methods of eliminating the memory-based education and focusing on learners' ability in various skills and dealing with developing and understanding scientific information.

4. Conclusion

It is understood that the prepared learning package suits and works for the study region. There is also notable progress in psychological, moral and educational improvement of the students. By focusing on educational centers and groups and research centers in cooperation with teachers, functional educational packages may be prepared for the regions and province as well.

5. References

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