ACTIVE LEARNING IN THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM: A STEP TOWARD STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

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Annotation: *This thesis examines the evolution and implementation of the flipped classroom model in modern education. The study explores the growing popularity of this model, focusing on its impact on student-centered learning, engagement, and ownership of the material. It includes a case study of its use in a university programming course, which received positive student feedback. Additionally, the thesis discusses the advantages and challenges of the flipped classroom approach, offering insights into its potential to meet the diverse needs of learners.*

Keywords: *Flipped Classroom, Active Learning, Student Engagement, In-Class Activities, Homework, Student Feedback, Higher Education, Teaching Methods.*

Introduction. The flipped classroom is an innovative teaching model where students study content at home, typically through videos or reading materials, and class time is used for active, hands-on learning activities. The flipped classroom reverses traditional teaching by having students engage with preparatory materials at home and using class time for interactive learning activities. This reversal of traditional teaching methods encourages deeper student engagement and collaboration. Popularized by online platforms like Khan Academy, the flipped classroom model is gaining traction, though academic research on its effectiveness remains limited. This study examines the flipped classroom's impact, focusing on student engagement and learning outcomes in higher education.

Why Choose a Flipped Classroom?

In the flipped classroom, students engage with new content outside of class, allowing them to prepare for in-class activities that deepen their understanding. This method is especially beneficial for students with limited support at home, as they can catch up on material independently. Additionally, it encourages greater student responsibility, as they are accountable for their learning outside the classroom. The flipped classroom is part of a broader trend toward student-centered learning, including blended and inquiry-based approaches. These models emphasize interactive learning, using various online resources to support students' individual learning needs. Teachers, acting as facilitators, can

provide more personalized instruction, leading to better learning outcomes and greater engagement.

Benefits and Impact. The flipped classroom encourage active learning by allowing students to apply concepts during class through discussions, problem-solving tasks, and group projects. This approach not only helps reinforce material but also fosters collaboration and critical thinking. In a university programming course, for example, students watch coding tutorials at home and then collaborate on coding exercises in class, applying what they've learned. Teachers also benefit from more time to provide individualized support, as they can interact with students during class rather than focusing on lectures. This personalized approach can be particularly beneficial for students who need extra help, ensuring that they remain on track and engaged with the content. Furthermore, the flipped classroom encourages self-directed learning, as students are responsible for engaging with the material outside class. This leads to better preparation and participation, creating more dynamic and interactive learning environment.

Challenges of the Flipped Classroom. Flipped classroom could offer many benefits while it presents some challenges too. The model relies heavily on technology, which may create barriers for students who has not access to reliable internet or devices. Additionally, teachers must invest significant time in creating high-quality instructional materials, such as videos and reading assignments, which can be resource-intensive. Moreover, some students may struggle with the self-discipline, required for independent learning. Without the structure of traditional lectures, students must take responsibility for their own learning, which may be challenging for those who are not accustomed to this level of independence.

Conclusion. The flipped classroom offers an engaging and effective approach to modern education, shifting the focus from passive learning to active engagement. By allowing students to prepare outside class and apply knowledge through hands-on activities, the flipped classroom promotes deeper understanding and collaboration. However, challenges such as technology access and the need for well-prepared teachers must be addressed to maximize its potential. With continued research and adaptation, the flipped classroom can meet the evolving needs of today's learners, fostering critical thinking, self-directed learning, and greater student engagement.

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