

**METHODS OF
TEACHING PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCIENCE**

PROJECT METHOD

Outline

- What is the Project Method?
- What is the nature of project work?
- Steps to follow in using Project Method to teach.
- What are the roles of a teacher in project method?
- Advantages of Project Method.
- Disadvantages of Project Method.

What is the Project Method?

- It is also a method of learning through experimentation, observation and how scientific knowledge should be used to solve a problem within a period of time.
- A project work is an activity carried out by students or teachers, or in groups in a specified area of learning over a period of time.

Steps to follow in using Project Method to teach

- **Selecting the topic**

Before a topic is chosen project goals and objectives should be selected.

For teacher trainees the project should be relevant to a teaching situation.

Steps to follow in using Project Method to teach

- **Planning the project**

The next step in the process is to make plans to achieve projects goals. In planning the following should be taken into consideration.

- **How and where to get materials.** E. g. metals from blacksmith shop. Wood and saw dust from carpenters shop.
- **Making research. Books to read** and questionnaires for people to answer.
- **Costing of project.** For example, travelling to be made, materials to buy and printing fees.

Steps to follow in using Project Method to teach

- **Conducting the research**

Here supervisors give constant directives and attention to students.

- **Evaluating the topic**

When the project is completed the teacher and learner should jointly assess the success of the project. For example, is the project work worth the time and effort expended on it?

What are the roles of a teacher in Project Method?

- He/she helps students to select projects which are attainable and practical in nature within the time and facilities available.
- Helps students to plan with good project activities.
- Gives constant directives and attention to students.
- Act as a supervisor/facilitator.
- Act as a judge since he/she will assist students in assessing the success of the project.

Advantages of Project Method

- It encourages creativity and freedom of expression.
- It gives experience in planning, organization and management.
- It makes learning real by presenting a real task for pupils to tackle.
- The project method is democratic because it offers students opportunity to work towards a common goal.
- It encourages individual or group and co-operation.

Disadvantages of Project Method.

- Order and discipline are sometimes difficult to maintain during project activities.
- It demands the service of efficient, resourceful and knowledgeable teacher.
- The method relies heavily on student's initiative, participation and responsibilities.
- It is expensive in terms of building teaching and learning aids.
- The method is time consuming.