

World Teachers' Day 2022

**Teaching For Maximal Productivity
and Sustainability: Perspectives
From the New Normal Era**
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1 October 2022

Speaker Profile

Emmanuel Omeiza Momoh is a Bachelor's degree holder in library and information science with passion for educational development and improving learner behaviour. His passion has motivated him into taking courses relating to educational management, project management planning and evaluation among others.

He is a recipient of the innovative teacher's fellowship, Nigeria, the Young African Library leaders fellowship as well as the United Nations Global Schools Advocacy Programme. He works towards using viable means in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals which revolve around eradicating illiteracy.

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Objectives of the Session

- Outline the role of teachers and other educators in the new era
- Examine practical ways to avoid monotonous teaching and learning activities
- Explore new teaching methodologies suitable for the new normal era
- Highlight challenges to teaching for productivity and sustainability
- Offer and recommend some practical and workable solutions around the SDGs

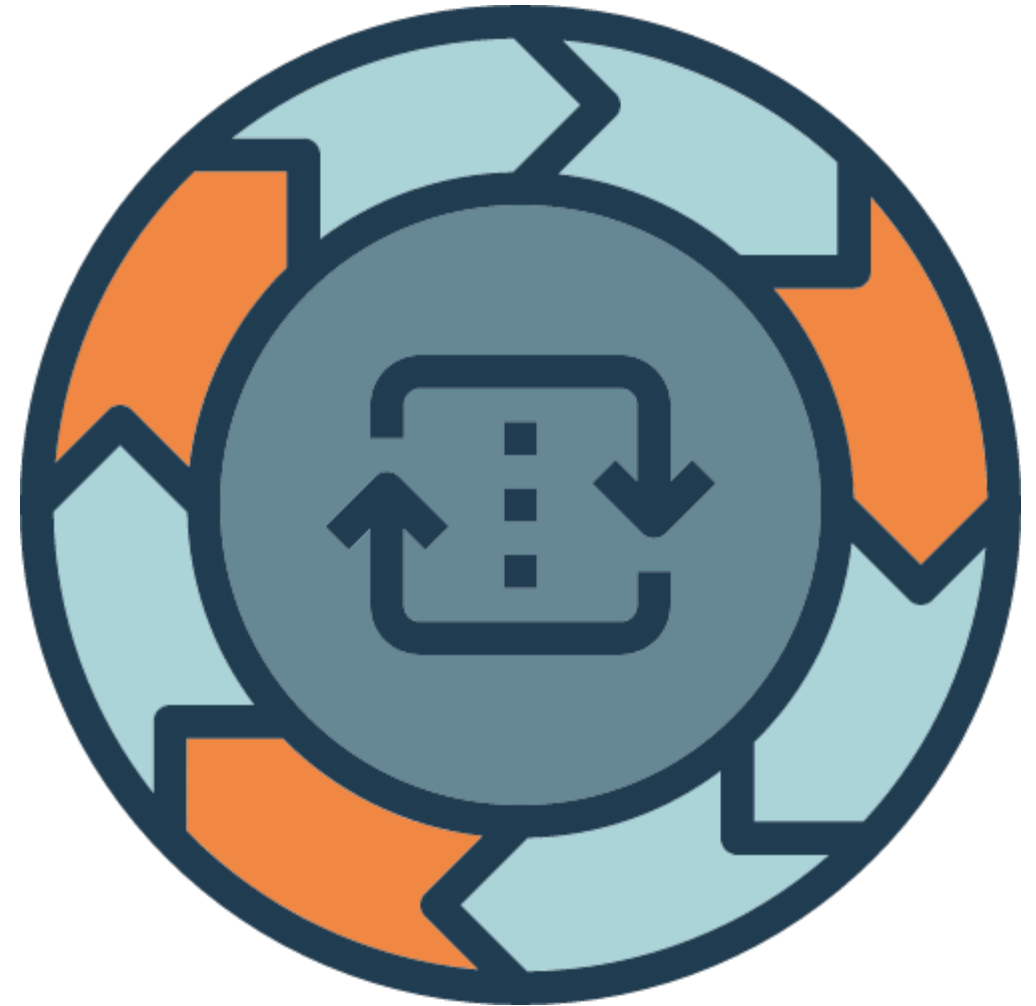
Reflection

Have you ever done something repeatedly for a long time?

Did you experience a different result after each attempt?

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results overtime "

-Albert Einstein

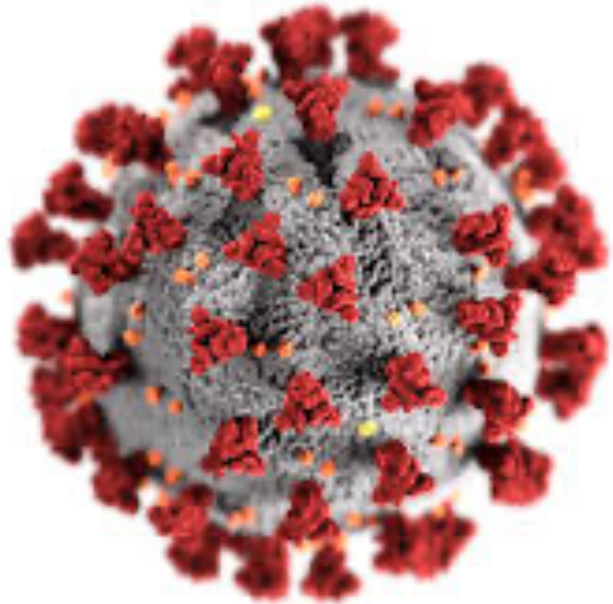


Background to teaching before now

- Involved a teacher using the tools of a textbook, blackboard and chalk to pass on knowledge
- Used face to face method of interaction
- There was little or no impact
- Confined to a physical space
- Usage and adoption of technology was very limited. This, there was little or no impact



Then COVID-19 came which resulted in:



- Loss of jobs and means of livelihoods
- Mergers and pay cuts
- Lockdown and closure of offices spanning weeks and months
- Education (teaching and learning) came to a standstill
- Some teaching moved online

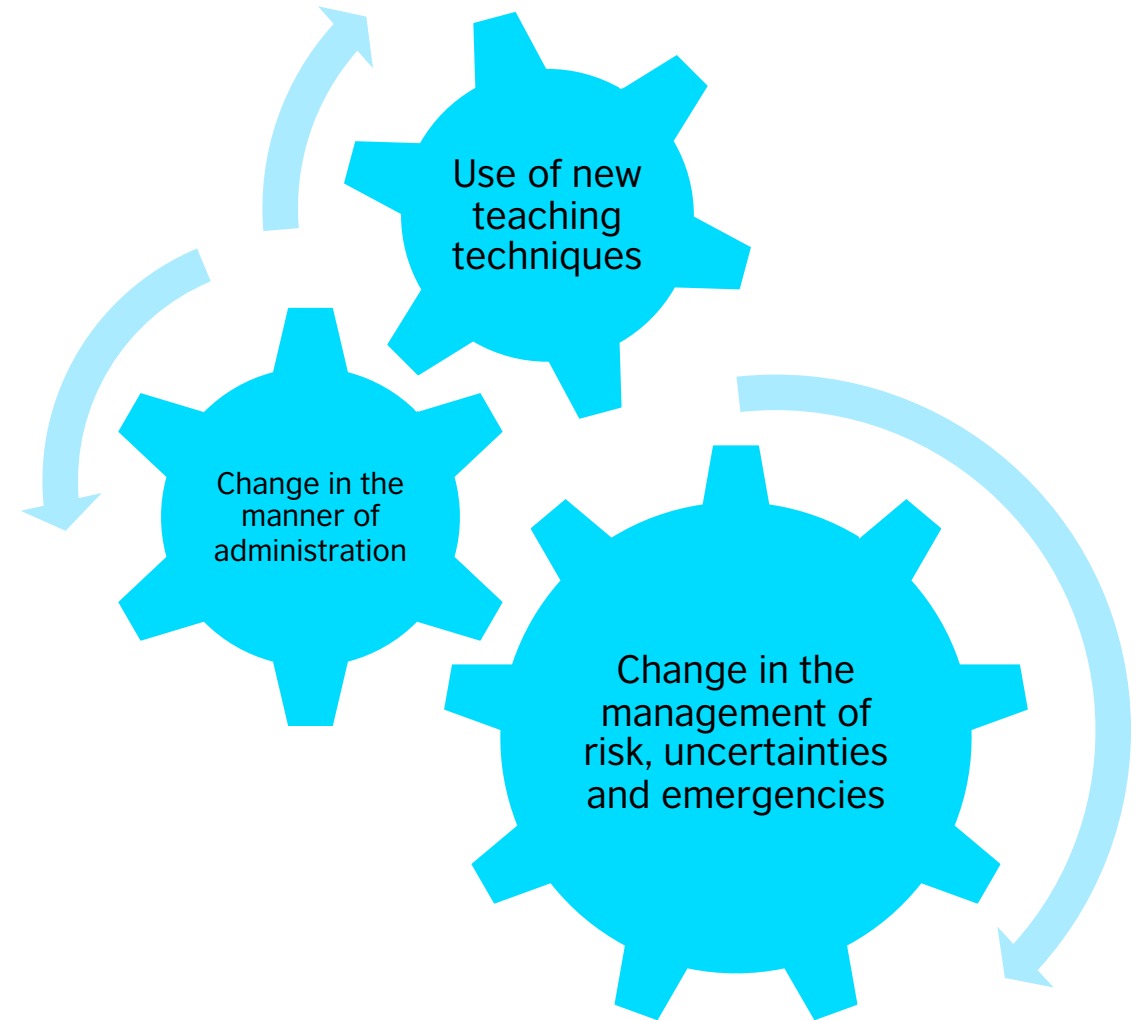
New normal or post Covid-19 era

The period after the covid-19 era characterised by the adoption of new ways of life and practices such as:

- Remote work
- Hand washing and use of sanitizers
- Use of face masks
- Restriction in public gatherings
- Some increase in the use of technology in education which nosedived into virtual learning



Educational realities of the New Normal Era



Teachers at the center of a changing world

The world is changing rapidly. Factors responsible for this include:

- The aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic which many countries and sectors are still finding it difficult to come to terms with
- Influence of technology, civilisation, globalisation and other adjunct concepts which have brought about interconnectedness.
- Most important of all is climate change.



Although the Covid-19 pandemic may be over, we are arguably faced with a more serious issue that of climate change



Teaching For Maximal Productivity and Sustainability

- A broad term that covers various concepts, steps, procedures and strategies which are necessities to nurture both individual and collective contributions of teachers and learners towards optimal growth and advancement of lifelong learning.
- It is symbiotic. Affects teachers and the learners. In most cases, the institution and the management can be affected too



Teaching For Maximal Productivity and Sustainability (Continued)

- The teacher in this case isn't the kind of individual portrayed earlier where he or she comes to class just to pass the time but rather a partner in progress towards meeting the realities and demands of the new normal era.
- Teaching and learning activities in the new normal era must not only be geared towards acquiring knowledge but rather for practical application in real-world challenges towards national development. This is the best way to maximize productivity.
- Individual learner needs must be captured and taken into consideration.
- Technology should be adopted at the maximal level.

How Can Teachers Ensure Maximal Productivity and Sustainability In The New Era?

Providing suitable means of learning which are tailored towards meeting individual needs of learners.

Ensuring that all classroom activities are such that could help in actualising the SDGs. Every teacher must tailor his respective subject towards each of the 17 goals. This will allow for a practical application of knowledge by learners in real life experiences and not just a read and pass exams approach which they have been accustomed to initially.

Providing strong mechanisms that foster collaboration between learners both within and outside the classroom. This ensures that no learner is lagging behind.

Adopting the digital revolution, media and other educational technologies towards making learning more comfortable and proactive.

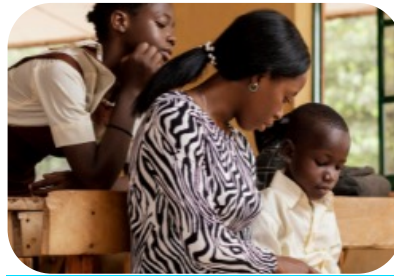
How should we tackle teaching to take into account our post Covid-19 world and the new realities we face as a part of the climate emergency?

- Take advantage of students' diverse disciplinary and experiential knowledge.
- Adoption of project-based approaches to teaching and learning to facilitate maximal interaction
- Teaching aim and objectives should be shifted from knowledge and facts to skills and processes.
That is, shift on focus from abstract to experiential or practical
- Collaboration, partnerships and team-work between educators and learners altogether

Teaching Methods That Can Be Adopted In The New Normal Era For Productivity and Sustainability



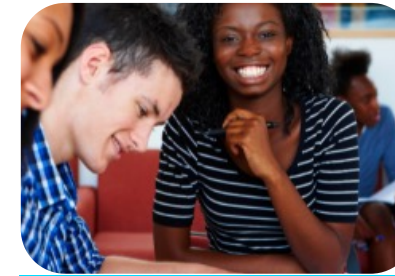
Storytelling



Group Discussions



Guided Questioning



Stimulus Activities



Case Studies



Field Trips and Outdoor Learning



Inquiry Based Learning



Role Plays etc

Practical ways to teach sustainability as language teachers

- Encourage the learning of new words and diction . For instance, climate change can have new words like emission, fossil,
- Role playing especially for those who teach literature
- Guided composition on key concepts in the green environment to develop creativity and critical thinking. This can be posted in strategic locations
- Organise spelling competition, rearranging words to drive curiosity. E.g E L B A W E N E R which when rearranged means renewable.
- Spoken word competition to improve comprehension and communication.

SDGs

SDG 5 (Gender Equality)

- A drama to be staged where the class is divided into different characters. Males may be encouraged to take on feminine roles vice versa especially in settings relating to the family, leadership in the society. This is to drive home the lesson of gender equity.

SDG 13 (Climate Action)

- Using stories (fiction and nonfiction) to create curiosity and catch the minds of the learners. Students may then be guided to explore different themes tailored towards climate change.

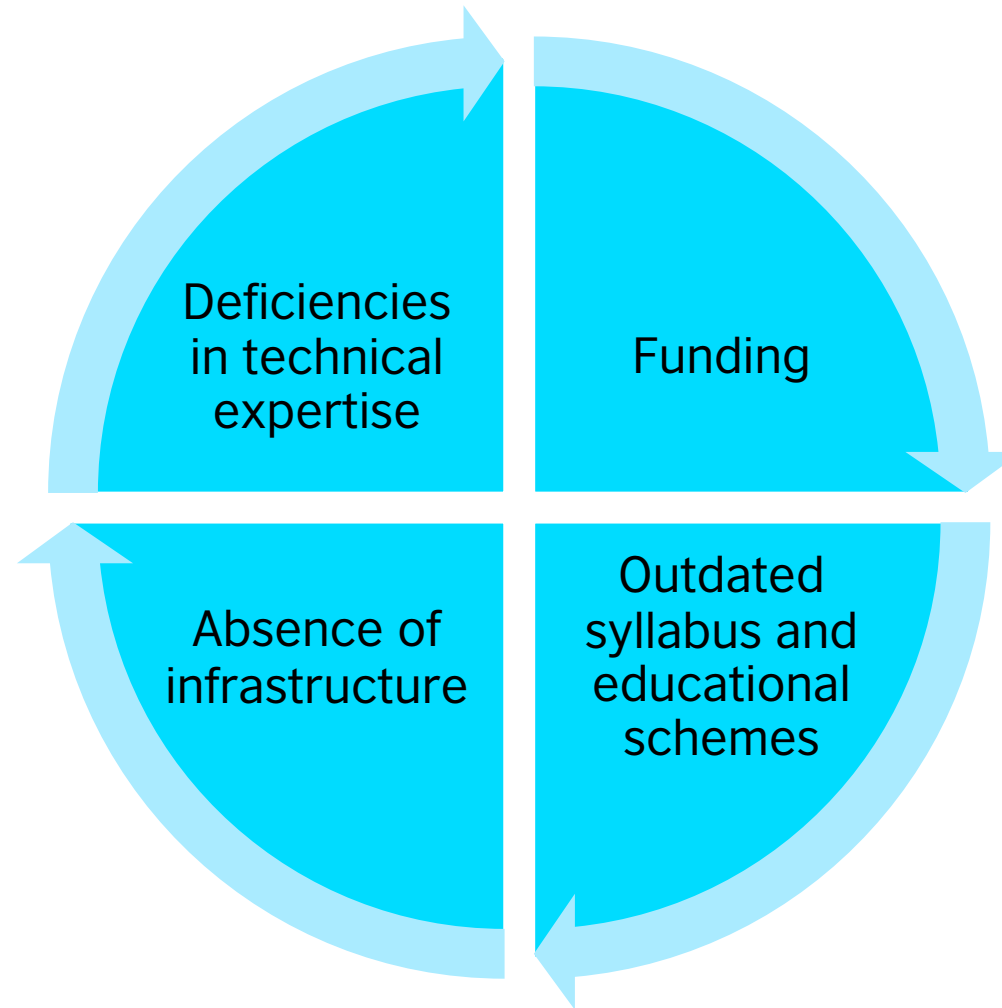
Practical examples based on the SDGs

Topic: Argumentative Essay Using The SDG 5 and 13

Classroom Activity: the teacher divided the students into two groups. Each group is to create valid points as to which of the SDG in focus is important.

Objective: the focus of the session is to develop student skills in communication which will develop students' vocabulary and diction which will in turn improve their writing skills.

Challenges To Teaching for Productivity and Sustainability in the New Normal Era



Recommendations



There is the need to become acquainted to the emerging technologies that can boost productivity- Google classrooms, zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams etc



Adoption and Utilisation of new methods of teaching such as the inquiry based learning etc



The place of collaboration cannot be overemphasised – joining relevant groups and communities of practice



Taking relevant courses



Curriculum redesigning



Mindset changing - from the fixed to the flexible

Conclusion

While the world still grapples and comes to terms with the new normal era, teachers and other stakeholders in the educational sector should not be deterred or taken aback by this. They should rather, do the needful towards ensuring that various mechanisms are put into place towards allowing for maximal productivity and sustainability towards bringing out the best in learners.

After all, the educational industry and the teaching professions are the ones at the centre of the new normal era.

Reflections



The new normal is a call to improve teaching methodologies towards facilitating maximal productivity.

Thank you