

EFFECTS OF OPERATIONAL TEACHING METHODS OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS AMONG  
YOUNG ADULTS IN BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, OGBOMOSO

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## ABSTRACT

In our contemporary church today, the Sunday school class is far from what it used to be and as such, it became paramount to look into the challenges that have hindered a good number of the youths from attending the Sunday school classes regularly. Lately, Sunday school teachers have become so monotonous in their teaching methods and the youths are tired of teachers who come to the class with the Sunday school manual to read word for word, Sunday after Sunday that which has been written in the booklet. This research has been able to put together discoveries on the reasons why youths no longer find Sunday school interesting. In an attempt to reveal the flaws, the researcher brought out the original intention of the founders of the Sunday school and the challenges confronting the Sunday school class from being effective as it ought to be. Thereafter, the literature review shared more light on scholars view about the present state and proffer solutions through various captivating and interesting operational teaching methods with the aid of modern technological facilities to fascinate the youths in this present age of technological advancement. Descriptive research design was employed in this study to obtain the view and reaction of youths and Sunday school teachers in Bethel Baptist Association, Ogbomoso South area, on the teaching methods applies in the class and the measures each church has put in place in other not to neglect the youths in the church. A total of one hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires were distributed to one hundred (100) youths and fifty (50) Sunday school teachers but only one hundred and thirty seven (137) copies were retrieved. The data gathered from ten (10) different churches in Bethel Baptist Association were analyzed, interpreted with the aid of tables and discussed based on the responses collected. The results indicated that some of the challenges in the Sunday school class are as a result of the teaching methods, wrong attitude of the teachers towards members, lack of appropriate teaching aids etc. However, based on the findings, it was recommended that the attitude of the teachers towards the members be given prompt attention, coupled with the teaching methods, avenues should be created for participation and expression of the mind of the members, appropriate teaching aids and dynamism be applied in other to make the class lively. The teachers should be able to put themselves in the shoes of the youths and speak common language that will make them develop deeper interest and confidence in the teacher. In addition, teachers should read wide in other to have broad knowledge of numbers of things that youths are exposed to for easy interaction and impartation, as this research work will be useful at all Associations, Conferences and Convention level. It is a viable tool to other Associations and Conferences for better improvement on the standard of the Sunday school department of the church.

## Conclusion

A good Sunday school teacher should have it at the back of his/her mind that, communication with right attitude will always produce effective teaching methods which are basic tools needed in passing across the aim of every lesson. "Communication is an exchange of knowledge, ideas, information, opinions, feelings between people" Jane Revell (1992:3). Young adults love to be in an environment where they are loved, understood and given the right of express or verbalize their heart desire, strength and skills. These are the basic steps the young adults cherish most if they must attend Sunday school class. However, based on the research conducted, if certain areas are properly looked into, there shall be positive changes in the young adult's attitude towards Sunday school classes such as:

1. The attitude of the teachers towards teaching aids in conveying the message.

2. Choosing the right teaching method that will be appropriate enough to draw the attention of the youths.
3. Allowing a young vibrant teacher who can see things from youthful perspective and who understands the language of the youths and how to handle the class.
4. Giving room to teachers who have interest and passion on the needs of the youths etc.
5. Making the class setting lively enough for the youths to participate fully and express their in most intention and believe.

Therefore, every effective teaching method used in conveying the message at each Sunday school class will not only affect the cognitive and affective domain, but will also affects the psychomotor domain of each youth. Hence, as it affects the attitude and character of the youths, the attitude disposition and mindset will become different.

#### Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher has the following as recommendation:

Teachers should not be monotonous in their method of teaching; room should be given for dynamism and methodology. The teachers should cultivate the habit of speaking to the youths in clear terms such that the message will be properly understood enough for interaction in the class. Young adults mostly come to class with high enthusiasm, but when their expectations are not met, they sometimes regret why they attended the class at the first place.

Pastors should not leave the Sunday school absolutely to the Sunday school superintendent; *he should be able to attend the young adult class once in a while just to encourage the young adults.*

Sunday school teachers should be evaluated quarterly. They should be permitted to attend seminars and workshops that will enhance their skills and knowledge in the teaching method of delivery.

Competent teachers should read books in order to know more and learn new things and ideas on how the youths think, behave, act and react to things around them. The Pastor of a church could be of help in this regard by sensitising the teachers to read wide for better performance as a result of their theological background.

Associations, Conferences and the Convention at large will find this research material as a viable tool to enhance the Sunday school department and any other gathering where the Bible is being taught at different age group level.

This research work is not only limited to churches within Bethel Association only, churches that desire tremendous change in the Sunday school department will see it as essential material.

Learning is a continues process in life because, the very moment a person refuses to learn new things, he will begin to decay gradually. Learning is in three domains and these domains comprise of Cognitive, affective and psychomotor. The cognitive domain affects the mental ability and deals with the knowledge gained; while, affective domain is concerned with the feeling and behavioural part of the learner. Thus, when such a learner

has learnt something new, he digests it and in a way it affects his behaviour. Then, one can say such a learner has learnt.