

DELIVERY OF PRACTICAL AND OTHER LABORATORY ACTIVITIES BY PROF. CHIIDI C. UHUEGBU

INTRODUCTION

Practical work and laboratory work provides controlled conditions and allows precise manipulation of variables.

Practical work outside the laboratory offers the opportunity to explore and understand phenomena in their natural context.

PRACTICAL AND LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

Practical activities involve:

- Demonstration
- Investigation
- Problem solving
- Structured practical
- Relating practical

Laboratory activities involve:

- Confirmatory
- Inquiry
- Discovering
- Problem based

OBJECTIVES OF LABORATORY COURSE WORK

Main objectives of doing a laboratory course are to :

- Develop critical, quantitative thinking
- Develop experimental and data analysis skills
- Learn to use scientific apparatus
- Learn to estimate statistical errors and recognize systematic errors.



PRACTICAL SKILLS

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- Planning
- Collecting data
- Analyzing data
- Evaluation

PLANNING AND DESIGNING PRACTICAL AND LABORATORY SESSIONS

- Establish aims and intended learning outcomes for the session and link them to the wider programme of learning
- Choose and design appropriate safe and feasible learning tasks
- Design supportive resources, including instructions, procedures, a manual or worksheets

 Think what students need to know to carry out practical tasks appropriately and safely

- Which skills students are expected to develop
- What equipment will be needed
- Which problems students may encounter during the session

FOUR PHASES IN A TYPICAL PRACTICAL AND LABORATORY BASED SESSIONS.

1. PRELIMINARY

Check the equipment and health and safety procedures

2. OPENING

- Get the students' attention
- Check that they can hear and see you
- Announce your intended learning outcomes for the session and show how the practical is related to the rest of the programme of learning
- Describe the equipment to be used and how it works

3. MAIN SECTION

- Give clear instructions about how to use the equipment
- Demostrate how to perform the successive tasks safely and effectively
- Mention possible mistakes that students should try to avoid making
- Show the how to take, record, calculate, present and interpret results/data

4. ENDING

- Encourage students to ask questions
- Review with them the expected learning outcomes for the session
- Ask students to feedback their perceptions of the learning tasks and to summarize and discuss their main findings and possible problems and mistakes
- Introduce the next session and suggest further work that students could undertake in their own time, whether or not it is part of some in- course summative assessment

THANKS FOR LISTENING