

Implementation of Inquiry – Based Lesson on Lights, Mirrors and Lenses in A Gamified Classroom

Luis Bryant C. Canino*, Sotero O. Malayao Jr., Noel Lito B. Sayson

College of Education, Iligan Institute of Technology Mindanao State University, Misamis Occidental, Philippines

*Corresponding Author

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ABSTRACT

Academic motivation has long been hailed as driver for improved academic engagement leading to improved academic achievement. This is the very premise of this study that a low-performing group of learners will be motivated to work harder for improved academic performance. The study started with the utilization of developed guided-inquiry virtual laboratory activities that were delivered as part of the lesson in a gamified context. The study utilized three heterogeneous grade 10 sections of a private school in Misamis Occidental. One section is generally a better-performing section and was made the control section, while the remaining two low-performing sections were taken as the experimental sections. The whole gamification activity involves four leader board displays where the first leader board showed equal initial performance for all learners. Results showed that the low-performing classes performed with very little difference with high performing control group. The normalized gain for all sections were all medium gain. The study points to the efficacy of a gamified classroom utilizing virtual activities in improving academic performance as indicated in the results of the normalized gain.

Keywords: gamification, inquiry-based lesson, physics, light, mirror and lenses, academic motivation, academic performance

INTRODUCTION

Science subjects are perceived to be challenging. Due to this, educators find ways to deliver the best education to the students despite the challenges. One of these challenges is the low achievement of students in science. In the recent Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 exam, the Philippines placed third lowest in the Science ranking of countries globally (Chi, 2023). Another challenge faced by science educators specifically in the current teaching-learning era is the manner or way in which they will deliver the lessons effectively. Given the limitations such as access to physical laboratories and the complexity of the lessons, the teachers need to support their teaching strategies and methods innovatively. The integration of a new teaching strategy in the classroom is a way to address the challenges in learning.

One way to address this challenge is through the use of simulations. Educational simulation is a teaching method that evaluates participants' knowledge and ability levels by placing them in situations where they must actively solve problems. The guidelines are established by the instructor to ensure a secure setting for experiential learning (Mozafaripour, 2023). Physics Education Technology (PhET) simulations are used simultaneously with the game elements in the inquiry-based lesson used in this study. Inquiry-based lessons highlight the queries, concepts, and observations of the students. Teachers actively encourage discussion among their students as well as politely testing, restructuring, and challenging ideas (Top Hat, 2019).

A novel idea in education has surfaced that addresses students' engagement and motivation, adding

entertainment while maintaining the quality of learning. This is the introduction of gamification in education. Gamification is the process of incorporating game mechanics, game theory, game aesthetics, and the emotional connection we have to games into the way we instruct to engage students in learning (Davis & Bellocchi, 2020).



Fig.1: Steps to Gamify

In this research, a gamified manual will be developed to aid the teacher in gamifying the classroom. The gamification steps include selecting, identifying, designing & developing, implementing, evaluating, and recreating.

Simulation-based laboratory activities were also utilized to help facilitate the incorporation of gamification in the classroom. The purpose of this research study is to examine the effectiveness of gamification in a physics class.

Gamification as a novel feedback system for student classroom performance applies to all classrooms and all types of intervention. It has been discovered that gamification works well in a variety of educational settings. It has been demonstrated to enhance learning outcomes and boost student engagement (Vanacore et al., 2023).

This study will use developed simulation-based guided inquiry activities on mirrors and lenses. This set of activities was developed and validated by another researcher in the person of Kennette Arboiz.

The set of activities served as a complete learning packet complete with the lesson plan, formative assessments, and achievement tests. The package was configured to fit into the class schedule of the school that permitted its implementation.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study employed a quasi-experimental design with quantitative and qualitative data support. Quantitative data was used to measure students' academic motivation and achievement while qualitative data consisted of the students' and teachers' insights and feedback on implementing the gamified class. The researcher developed a gamified classroom consistent with the DepEd-prescribed grading system containing written works and performance tasks.

Research Subjects

The study's respondents were 153 (one hundred fifty-three) Grade 10 heterogeneous students from the three sections of a private school in Calamba, Misamis Occidental. Section A was the control group while Sections

B & C were the experimental groups.

Research Setting

This study will be implemented in a private school using three intact sections. The school is located in the municipality of Calamba, Misamis Occidental, Philippines.

Data Gathering Procedure

Develop a Gamified Classroom

Develop a gamified classroom based on a validated lesson package in a guided inquiry delivery for Grade 10.

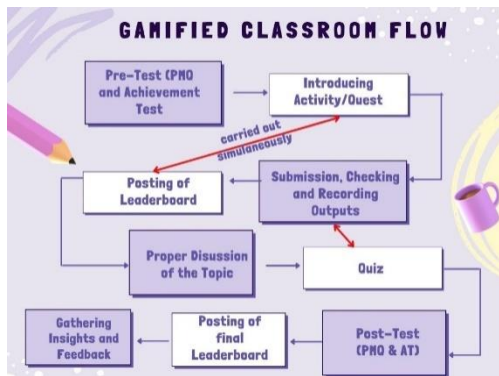


Fig 2: Gamified Classroom Flow

The Use of the Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement and Evaluate (ADDIE) model and evaluation of the gamified classroom

The ADDIE model was utilized in crafting the gamified classroom manual that will aid the implementation of the gamified classroom. This manual was developed and implemented in this study; consisted of game elements such as leaderboards, experience points, and badges presented in the classroom and was reviewed and evaluated by the panel of evaluators and graduate students.



Fig 3: ADDIE Model

Determine Student’s Outcomes

Determine the students’ outcomes in the gamified classroom.

Student outcomes in terms of:

Written works (WW) grade (Quests)

The written works grades of the students are composed of their scores in their quizzes, assignments, activities, and achievement tests.

Performance tasks (PT) grade (Group Project)

The performance task grade of the students was determined through the scores they gained for their group project (the making of a model of a pinhole camera).

Experience Points (ExP)

For experience points, students can gain from a total of six quests, five intended for written works and one for the performance task. Students can procure up to 130,000 experience points.

Actual Grade Contribution

The actual grade contribution comprised the 30% written works and the 40% performance task percentage grade.

	L1		L2			L3		L4					
	AT(pre & PMQ)	Q1	Ac1	As1	Ac2	AT (post)	Project (PT)	Total (WW) x 30%	WW	PT x 40%	Total Percentage		
Highest Possible Score	20	15	210	15	180	25	100	465	30	40	70		
S1													
S2													
S3													
S4													
S5													
S6													
S7													
S8													
S9													
S10													

Figure 4: Actual Grade Contribution Template

The written works of the students include the achievement test (AT) pretest and posttest, quiz (Q) 1, and activities 1 & 2 (Act 1& 2). There was only one performance task which was a group science project.

Achievement test (Pre and post-test)

The achievement test is comprised of 25 questions. The normalized gain score is used to determine if the intervention made through the gamified class and inquiry-based lessons caused a positive gain toward the student’s academic performance.

Students’ Academic Motivation

Physics Motivation Questionnaire (PMQ) II measured the changes in students’ motivation in physics in terms of the following factors: Intrinsic Motivation, Self-efficacy, Self - determination, Grade motivation, and Career Motivation.

Gather feedback and insights

Gather the students' and teachers' feedback and insights on the gamified classroom.

Administration of Insights and Feedback Questionnaire for Students and Teachers

The insights and feedback questionnaire comprised open-ended three-item questions to get the students' and teachers' perceived usefulness of the lesson package and gamified classroom, their advantages and disadvantages, and how they can be improved.

Data Analysis

Data collection methods included pre and post-surveys to measure students' academic motivation and performance. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, One – Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), and Post Hoc results.

RESULTS

Development of the Gamified Class

Games Elements Used in the Gamified Class

The game elements used in the study were quests (activities), storyline, badges, experience points, badges, aliases, rules, levels, leaderboards, and rewards.

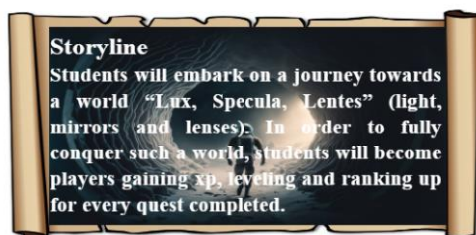


Figure 4: Storyline

Allotment of Quests, Experience Points, and Budget of Work

The quests, experience points, and budget of work were allotted for an 8-day implementation of the gamified class.

Development of Quests

Quests are developed based on the most essential learning outcomes (MELCs) prescribed by the Department of Education.

the images formed by the different types of mirrors and lenses	Predict the qualitative characteristics (orientation, type, and magnification) of images formed by plane and curved mirrors and lenses	Week 6-7	S10FE-IIg-50
	Identify ways in which the properties of mirrors and lenses determine their use in optical instruments (e.g., cameras and binoculars)	Week 8	S10FE-IIh-52

Figure 5: Most Essential Learning Competencies

The most essential learning competencies determine the relevant knowledge and skills needed by students for

their future academic endeavors.

Evaluation of the Gamified Class for Light, Mirrors, and Lenses (LML)

The panel of evaluators and graduate students validated the LML gamified class resulting in the developed gamified class manual.

Students' Academic Performance

Written Works

41.51% of the control group (Section A) (N= 53) got a written works grade of 85-89 interpreted as “Proficient” while the experimental groups (Sections B & C) (N=49, 51) got a written works grade of 80-84 with 35.29% interpreted as “Approaching Proficiency” and 75-79 with 65.31% interpreted as “Developing” respectively.

Performance Task

Section A got a performance task grade of 90-100 with 58.49% interpreted as “Advanced”. While 85-89 with 58.82% interpreted as “Proficient” and 80-84 with 55.10% interpreted as “Approaching Proficiency” were the performance task grades of Sections B & C respectively.

Experience Points, Levels, Leader boards, and Grade Contribution

Sections B & C (the gamified classes) reached Level 4/ Leaderboard 4 (the highest level - legendary rank) with 98.04% and 89.90% of each classroom population respectively. The highest level requires 100,000 EXP and above. The mean grade contribution of Section A was 60.20 and Sections B & C were 58.47 and 55.58 respectively.

Table 1: Levels Reached by Sections B & C (Experimental Groups)

Levels Reached	Frequency			
	Section B	Percentage	Section C	Percentage
4	50	98.04%	44	89.80%
3	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%	2	4.08%
1	1	1.96%	3	6.12%
Total	51	100%	49	100%

Levels



Figure6: Levels and Rankings

The figure shows the levels and ranking of the students before and during the implementation of the gamified class. The students were given an initial rank of “Neophyte”. The level started at Level 1 with a rank labeled as “Expert”. The highest level was Level4 and the equivalent ranking was labeled “Legendary”.

Leader board



Figure7: Sample Leaderboard

The leaderboard showed the standing of the students in their performance in the gamified class. There were four leaderboards reported during the implementation of the gamified class on lights, mirror and lenses.

Graph of Mean Grade Contribution

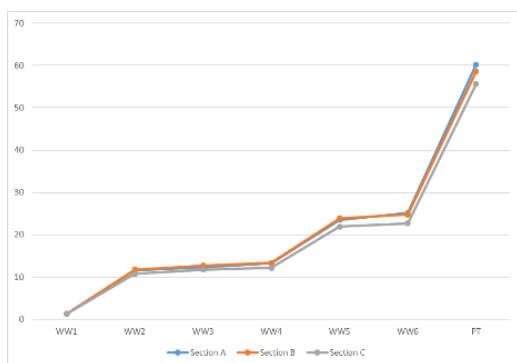


Figure8: Mean Grade Contribution

The graph above shows the mean grade contribution of the three sections per quest—quests composed of the 6 written works and 1 performance task. The graph trend showed a great spike on the addition of the performance task which is equivalent to 40% grade contribution. Written works was about 30% of the student’s grade contribution.

Normalized Gain

The gain score of Section A was 0.578 while the gain score of Sections B & C were 0.4201 and 0.315 respectively. All gain scores of the three sections are interpreted as “Average” or “Medium” as shown in the table below.

Table 2: Mean Class Gain

Section	Pretest Mean	Posttest Mean	Mean Class Gain	Interpretation
A	8.683	18.113	0.578	Average
B	6.833	14.137	0.4201	Average
C	7.269	12.167	0.315	Average

Student’s Academic Motivation

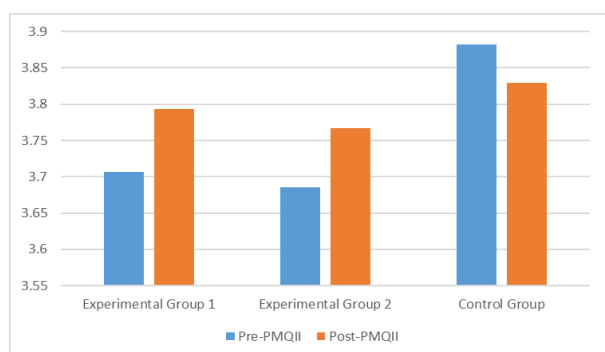


Fig.2: Academic Motivation of the Students

Sections B and C’s overall mean motivation slightly increased from 3.707 to 3.793 and 3.686 to 3.767 respectively. In comparison, Section A’s overall mean motivation slightly decreased from 3.882 and 3.829 respectively. All motivation scores of the three sections are interpreted as” Very High”.

Students’ and Teachers’ Insights and Feedback on the Gamified Class

The grade 10 science teachers saw the gamified classroom as a useful tool for raising students' academic motivation, engagement, and learning, all of which positively impacted their academic performance. The student respondents perceived the good points of a gamified class include new discovery, opportunities to learn, real-life connections, and an engaging and interactive atmosphere.

CONCLUSION

The grade 10 students' academic motivation and achievement in Light, Mirrors, and Lenses were improved by implementing the designed and developed gamified Light, Mirrors, and Lenses (LML) class as supported by the quantitative and qualitative data findings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This study's recommendations are to design and develop another gamified class that is meant to last for one quarter, to have more science educators and specialists to assess the designed and evaluated gamified class, to present the equivalent percentage of the grade of the students, and to make use of online platforms and applications that will enhance the student's learning experience in a gamified class.

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