Slide 1

iatefl
Belfast
2022

Teaching English to Adults in Nigeria during Insecurity using WhatsApp

Martha Ada Onjewu, Ph.D.
CASSS, Kaduna Polytechnic
Kaduna
Nigeria

Slide 2

Introduction

The present peculiar problem of Nigeria is insecurity which is now wide spread:

- in the North East is Boko Haram Insurgency
- in the North West is Banditry, Terrorism, Cattle Rustling and kidnapping
- in the North Central is Banditry with Farmers and Herders clashes
- in the South East is Indigenous People of Biafra (Ipob)
- in the Niger Delta is Militants as well as Cultism, and
- in the South West is Kidnapping, Rape, Vandalism and Murder

Slide 3

Effects of insecurity

- The effects of such diverse insecurity are incalculable but leads to among many other consequences the following:
- Abduction and killing of students from schools leading to physical closure of such schools
- Former students becoming easy recruits by terrorist gangs
- Bankruptcy of relatives of abducted students
- Traumatised and depressed former abducted students and other victims
- Protests and looting by the population especially the youth
- General feeling of insecurity by the entire population

Slide 4

Engaging WhatsApp during School closure

School closure due to insecurity is detrimental to both individual and societal growth in very many dimensions and needs to be addressed because, the energy of people is more often channeled to negative tendencies outside of schooling. Fortunately, majority of adult Students are already active on social media platforms especially WhatsApp. Therefore, schooling could be continued using WhatsApp during physical closure of schools.

Slide 5

Teaching strategies using WhatsApp

Creating a dedicated WhatsApp group/class

The first stage following the decision for continuous teaching by WhatsApp is the creation or setting up of a dedicated WhatsApp group with rules such as:

- Only the posting of course related materials is allowed
- Membership of all class members is compulsory
- Course lecturer is also one of the group administrators, etc.

Uploading assignments / Examinations

- Cloze test questions, objective tests questions, and oral test questions could easily be conducted as either continuous assessment or examination. Subsequent uploading of corrections as feedback is also advised.

Slide 6

Class attendance taking

Taking attendance taking is key to the success of every classroom interaction because without it, students could play truant as in physical classroom situations. In fact, it should be given priority and taken not just once but two or more times as the need arises during every class. At what times should attendance be taken?
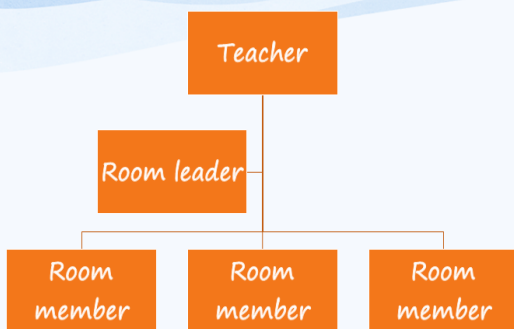
- At the commencement of a class
- Whenever the participation of students is poor
- At the end of the class
- Keep strict records to upload at intervals and devise the means to give feedback and punishment to the erring members

Engaging emoji

Using emoji increases the interest of students which motivates them as a result while aiding very apt expressions with time saving. For instance, other students are motivated to participate when an earlier participant earns an emoji

Uploading instructional voice notes

Instructional materials in the form of pictures, notes, slides and voice notes, etc., could be uploaded on WhatsApp by course lecturers for students' use. WhatsApp allows recording for up to fifteen minutes duration, fair enough. Shorter voice notes are very helpful during the actual online teaching to further explain points and save time compared to typing.

Slide 7

Teacher

Room leader

Room member | Room member | Room member

Class grouping

Subdivide class into breakout rooms with room leaders who coordinate their rooms and report to course lecturer.

Course lecturers could join individual rooms to observe or teach them as well using video to enhance the relationship with students.

WhatsApp allows a maximum of eight people to participate in a video call. Therefore having groups of eight members inclusive of the course teacher is advised.

Slide 8

Education is the premise of progress in every society, in every family – Kofi Annan

Thank you!