

## COMPARING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FLIPPED CLASSROOM TO CONVENTIONAL UNDERGRADUATE

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### Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the effectiveness of using the flipped classroom approach in higher education by evaluating three variables: academic achievement, generic skills and attitude toward learning. It did so by comparing two groups of students, those who learned using the flipped classroom approach and those who learned through traditional lectures followed by an activity session. In the flipped classroom, face-to-face time was reduced from 3 to 2 hours and activity time was doubled from 1 to 2 hours. The participants were 493 female students in the College of Education, University of Dammam, Saudi Arabia. They were divided into 10 cohorts; half of those cohorts were taught in a flipped classroom and the other half by conventional methods. Instructors, content, materials, assignments, and exam questions were the same in both groups. At the end of the course, the students showed no significant difference in test or assignment marks. Students' generic skills, measured by self-assessed pre- and post-questionnaires, also showed no significant difference between the two groups. With regard to students' attitude toward the flipped classroom method, 60% of the students in the flipped classroom reported that they preferred this method over the conventional lecture method, whereas 14% of the students reported having a negative attitude toward the flipped classroom, and the remaining students reported a neutral attitude. However, their perspective on how joyful and useful they found the recorded videos was significantly lower than their expectations before engaging in the course. With respect to students' attitude toward face-to-face lectures, about 45% of students in the flipped classroom group reported a positive attitude (comprising joyfulness, ease and usefulness), differing significantly from the perspective of those in the conventional group, 75% of whom reported a positive attitude.

**Key words:** Flipped classroom, inverted classroom, higher education, Saudi Arabia.

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