Title:
Electronic brainstorming in Saudi primary education

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Doctor of Philosophy in Education

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(Signature) ..........................................................
Abstract

This study explores the use of electronic brainstorming in classrooms in primary schools in Saudi Arabia. It involves teachers and students in primary school who used computers in their Islamic Education lessons. The main aim of my study is to explore the students’ interest in Islamic Education in primary schools in Saudi Arabia, to improve their creativity skills through electronic brainstorming and to investigate the influence of the pedagogical affordances of the electronic brainstorming method on classroom activity. To this end, I compared three groups, electronic brainstorming (EBS), verbal brainstorming (VBS) and the traditional method (T), in different classrooms and with different teachers. Mixed qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis were employed. The data collection methods used in this study were classroom and online forum observations, teacher and the student interviews, and pre- and post-tests (using the Torrance test, TTCT, to measure students’ creativity skills). The sample consisted of 61 primary school students aged between 11 and 12 years old and three Islamic Education teachers. The study took place in a classroom within the students' primary school in Saudi Arabia, and lasted around three months. The interview and observation findings indicated the greater student participation, motivation and creativity in the EBS method. The observation and interview findings revealed positive differences between electronic brainstorming (EBS) on side and verbal brainstorming (VBS) and traditional methods (T) on the other side in Islamic Education lessons in primary schools in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, the analysis of the research findings demonstrated how pedagogical affordance of EBS lead to a significant improvement of creativity skills, dialogue and engagement in learning environment where EBS had been employed. Finally, this
study concluded that EBS method has considerable potential to improve the Islamic Education curricula in primary schools in Saudi Arabia.
Dedication

To My beloved wife Mona
For her support, and prayers
Throughout the course of this thesis
Also, to my lovely children
Sereen and Eyas
May Allah bless them
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In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

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Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him) said: “He will not be thankful to Allah, he who would not be thankful to people”.

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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Figures</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Graphs</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter One: Introduction</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Initiation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Aims and Objectives</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Research Questions</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Overview of the research methods</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 The research contribution</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Structure of the thesis</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Chapter summary</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Two: Overview of education in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Introduction</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Background of the educational system in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Introduction</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2 Educational system in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3 Stages of education in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.4 Education Authorities in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5 Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia (MoE)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.6 Educational development projects in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 The research context</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Learning environments in primary education in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2 The primary school Islamic Education curriculum in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3 ICT and technology in primary schools in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4 Islamic Education curriculum and creativity</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2.3.5 Previous research studies in Islamic Education in Saudi Arabia

- 2.4 Chapter summary

#### Chapter Three: Electronic Brainstorming and Information and Communication Technology

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Electronic brainstorming (EBS)
  - 3.2.1 Introduction
  - 3.2.2 Definition and stages of EBS
  - 3.2.3 Electronic brainstorming in education
  - 3.2.4 Electronic brainstorming vs. verbal brainstorming
  - 3.2.5 Types and tools of EBS
  - 3.2.6 Methods of electronic brainstorming
  - 3.2.7 Advantages and disadvantages of electronic brainstorming
- 3.3 Integration of Technology and ICT with learning environments
  - 3.3.1 Introduction
  - 3.3.2 ICT and Technology in Education
  - 3.3.3 Barriers to integration of technology and ICT into teaching and learning
  - 3.3.4 Affordances of Technology and ICT
- 3.4 Chapter summary

#### Chapter Four: Creativity skills in learning environments

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Definition
- 4.3 The creative thinking abilities
- 4.4 Torrance Verbal Test of Creative Thinking (Form A)
- 4.5 A Critical Evaluation of the Torrance Test for Creative Thinking (TTCT)
- 4.6 Teaching of creativity skills
- 4.7 Creative thinking and ICT
- 4.8 The Theoretical framework of thinking in Islam
  - 4.8.1 Thinking in the Holy Quran
  - 4.8.2 Thinking in the Sunnah of the Prophet (Prophet Traditions)
  - 4.8.3 The instruments of thinking in Islam
  - 4.8.5 The fields of thinking in Islam
  - 4.8.6 Islamic education and creativity
  - Scientific creativity
  - Vocational creativity

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Publisher: [Insert Publisher Name]  
Date: [Insert Date]  
Number of Pages: [Insert Number of Pages]
Chapter Five: The Research Design ................................................................. 150

5.1 Introduction .................................................................................................. 150
5.2 Research paradigm and approach ................................................................. 151
5.3 Epistemology and ontology ......................................................................... 154
5.4 The research methodology ......................................................................... 156
5.5 Methods of data collection ........................................................................ 163
  5.5.1 Qualitative method of data collection ......................................................... 164
  5.5.2 Quantitative method of data collection ....................................................... 173
5.6 The design of the study ................................................................................ 180
5.7 The Sampling ............................................................................................... 183
5.8 Intervention and case studies ...................................................................... 184
  5.8.1 Intervention .............................................................................................. 184
  5.8.2 Case studies .............................................................................................. 186
5.9 Data analysis ............................................................................................... 200
  5.9.1 Analysis of qualitative data ...................................................................... 200
  5.9.2 Analysis of quantitative data .................................................................... 210
5.10 Trustworthiness of the research .................................................................. 212
  5.10.1 Credibility ............................................................................................... 213
  5.10.2 Transferability ......................................................................................... 214
  5.10.3 Dependability .......................................................................................... 214
  5.10.4 Conformability ....................................................................................... 215
5.11 Ethical issues and concerns ........................................................................ 216
5.12 Summary ..................................................................................................... 217

Chapter Six: Qualitative data findings ................................................................. 219

6.1 Introduction .................................................................................................. 219
6.2 Case one: Electronic brain-storming method ............................................... 221
  6.2.1 Pedagogical affordances of EBS ................................................................. 224
  6.2.2 Affordances of EBS for creativity skills ...................................................... 242
  6.2.3 Impacts of EBS on Islamic Education and the role of EBS in Saudi education .... 246
  6.2.4 Hindrances in using EBS in the classroom ................................................ 253
6.3 Case two: Verbal brainstorming group ........................................................ 258
6.3.1 Pedagogical affordances of the VBS teaching method ........................................... 258
6.3.2 Affordances of VBS for creativity skills ............................................................... 268
6.3.3 Impacts of VBS on Islamic Education and the role of VBS in Saudi education ....... 272
6.3.4 Hindrances in using VBS in the classroom .......................................................... 278
6.4 Case three: Traditional method .............................................................................. 279
   6.4.1 Pedagogical affordances of the traditional teaching method ............................. 280
   6.4.2 Affordances of the traditional method for creativity skills ............................... 287
   6.4.3 Impacts of the traditional method on Islamic Education and the role of the
       traditional method in Saudi education: ............................................................... 289
   6.4.4 Hindrance in using the traditional method in the classroom ............................ 292
6.5 Summary of findings ............................................................................................. 293
6.6 Chapter Summary ................................................................................................. 299

Chapter Seven: Quantitative data analysis .................................................................. 302
7.1 Introduction ............................................................................................................ 302
7.2 Summary of pre- and post-test creativity scores for the three teaching groups ...... 302
7.3 The effectiveness of each teaching method, taken individually ............................. 306
7.4 Comparing the effectiveness of the teaching methods ......................................... 308
   7.4.1 Distributions of pre- and post-test scores ....................................................... 309
   7.4.2 Comparison of groups’ creativity scores before the intervention ................. 310
   7.4.3 Comparison of groups’ creativity scores after the intervention ................. 312
   7.4.4 Comparison of groups’ improvements in creativity scores ......................... 314
   7.4.5 Overall comparison the effectiveness of the teaching methods .................... 315
7.5 Summary of chapter ............................................................................................ 316

Chapter Eight: Discussion ......................................................................................... 317
8.1 Introduction ........................................................................................................... 317
8.2 Answering the research questions: ....................................................................... 318
   8.2.1 Research question one .................................................................................. 318
   8.2.2 Research question two .................................................................................. 319
   8.2.3 Research question three ............................................................................... 320
   8.2.4 Research question four ............................................................................... 320
   8.2.5 Research question five ................................................................................. 321
8.3 Discussion of the main themes related to the research questions and findings ...... 321
   8.3.1 Theme one: Affordances of EBS ................................................................. 322
   8.3.2 Theme two: Affordances of EBS for creativity skills ..................................... 327