
NEWSLETTER

Can Holistic Module Teaching Improve English Performance of Junior Secondary School Students? An Experimental Exploration Based on the Reform of English Instruction in X City in Eastern China

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THE Compulsory Education Course Standards for English 2022 emphasize that teachers must construct module teaching around specific objectives to support the development of academic competence in students. Holistic module teaching is an instructional approach which uses a major concept in a subject to organize relevant course materials to deliver structured instruction. In recent years, there has been a widespread application of module teaching design in English classes in China. Nevertheless, little research has been carried out on the relations between holistic module teaching and student English competence. This study used the empirical data generated by the teaching reform and the method of difference-in-differences estimation to conduct a systematic evaluation of the efficacy of holistic module teaching in English instruction with the purpose of providing evidence for the further improvement of this teaching design. Research findings are as follows.

- i. Holistic module teaching could significantly improve students' English test results. The average results of comprehensive English of the student were upgraded by a standard score of 0.264 at the school level.
- ii. The module teaching design could enhance students' English performance in all aspects, including comprehensive proficiency, writing, listening, and reading, with the most prominent effect being on their comprehensive proficiency of English.
- iii. Due to inter-region differences and the occurrence of omitted variables, the estimated intervention effect of the new approach was presumably smaller than its actual efficacy.

The study suggested that in implementing holistic module teaching in junior secondary English classes, strategies such as real-world situation-based learning and knowledge transfer should be incorporated into the education of English listening, speaking, reading, and writing to assist teachers in identifying teaching objectives and to help students successfully improve their English proficiency.

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