

An Influential and Innovative Approach

Due to the training they receive, teachers in Senegal don't often stray from the beaten path. Those who make a point to break the monotony of conventional teaching styles are few and far between. In many classrooms, the participative approach such as debates, role playing games and group work is neglected. Adopting these techniques could be the solution to engaging students in their studies.

In the opinion of 72 master trainers, the teaching methods in APTE classes is very dynamic and aides students to fully grasp the content of the "APTE au Travail" modules. Teaching these modules not only calls upon the teachers facilitation abilities but also requires students to actively participate at the same level of the instructor.

The majority of the 840 teachers who have received training in "APTE au Travail", back the quality of the courses content as well as the teaching methods used. Many have found the program has had a significant impact in their professional development. **"Since this training, we can, without a doubt, confirm that our lives, mainly professionally, have been influenced. In teamwork and in problem solving, the spirit of innovation has become our conviction. During our trainings, we often draw inspiration from the "APTE au Travail" modules for the preparation phase."** Said Idrissa Diedhiou, an English language teacher in the Kolda region.

Mr. Diedhiou has adapted games like the "risk game" in module 5 for his English classes. These games are developed based on the "learning by fun" and "learning by doing" theories and Mr. Diedhiou has found them equally helpful to retain grammar concepts as for vocational training. **"In fact, with the risk game I have been able to make a grammar revision session. To prepare the game, I create worksheets with grammar concepts to review with my students. On each worksheet, I was careful to put the answer to each question asked. It's two teams facing each other and as I had more than 60 participants, I arranged it so that there were two teams that ended up in the final when defining the rules of the game. The observation is that, like many of the activities designed by APTE, this game can be adapted in all learning, all activities and in all subjects. In fact, the same game was adapted in a way to teach sixth graders a vocabulary lesson. The result gave higher satisfaction than normal in terms of engagement and participation."**



Mr. Idrissa DIEDHIOU,
English Teacher, Trainer in basic
education for youth and adults at CRFPE
in the Kolda region.

Education and training are the pillars of all development initiatives. In Senegal, the challenge is not only to train youth in areas where labour is in demand, but also to adopt a methodology that is adapted to the target audience and their environment.