

ALfA: Comparison with Other Pedagogies

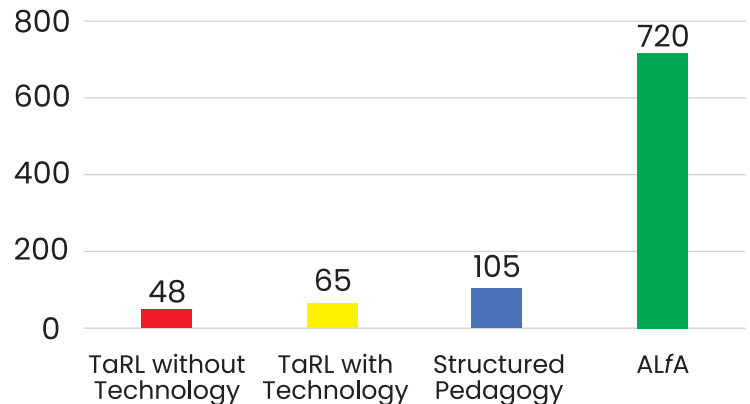
"One of the challenges facing many teachers is the extreme diversity of learning levels. Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) solves this problem by grouping students by ability, whereas ALfA transforms the mixed learning levels from a challenge to a strength through paired learning.

While ALfA is newer and still emerging compared to established programs such as TaRL and Structured Pedagogy, its ability to deliver swift learning gains positions it as a promising strategy for achieving universal literacy and numeracy."

- **Aïcha Bah Diallo**

Former Minister of Education, Guinea

Benefit: Cost Ratio of FLN Pedagogies



Source: Copenhagen Consensus, 2023. Halftime to SDGs Best Investment Paper: Education.

Source: Weighted average from implementations. \$4 per child, effect size of 0.48 (HGSE and others).

Table: Comparison of popular, evidence-based FLN pedagogies

| Feature | Structured Pedagogy | TaRL | ALfA |
|--|---|---|--|
| Core Approach | Standardized lesson plans and scripted teaching. | Grouping students by ability level and targeting instruction accordingly. | A process-led structure that scaffolds learning through paired activities. |
| Holistic & Social Development | Focused primarily on academic content delivery rather than holistic development. | Ability-based grouping can unintentionally lead to a fixed mindset, and may become socially divisive . | Develops 21st-century skills such as collaboration, citizenship, equity & inclusion through random paired learning. |
| Speed & Efficacy | Effect Size: 0.13 (Generally 3-year implementations) | Effect Sizes: 0.08–0.7 (50 days, combination of studies 2005–2014) | Effect Sizes: 0.23–0.89 (India, Maldives: 45 days, 2022–23) |
| Cost | \$8 per child Detailed scripting and material requirements. | \$20–\$27 per child Resources vary by implementation. More significant training required. | \$4 per child Leverages local resources and requires minimal training time. |

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