

**Table II:** The variables of the starting situation of teaching-and-learning

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Some of the components of the variable</b>
1. Learners' characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Age or level of development [infants, children, adolescents, adults];</li><li>- Sex [male, female, or both];</li><li>- Number [few, average number, or too many];</li><li>- Concerns [problems, needs and expectations];</li><li>- Previous knowledge [intelligible and skill-related, as well as value and attitude-related].</li></ul>
2. Teaching-and-learning environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Resources [space, time, people and materials];</li><li>- Administrative organization;</li><li>- Social relationships.</li></ul>
3. Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Nature and scope/depth of subject matter;</li><li>- Objectives [outcomes or behaviors expected from the learners] and their levels of achievement according to different domains [cognitive, psychomotor, or/and affective].</li></ul>
4. Underpinning principles of teaching-and-learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Aiming at achieving the learner's autonomy;</li><li>- Making the process learner-centered;</li><li>- Promoting the learner's activity/participation;</li><li>- Catering for every individual learner or practicing individualization/differentiation;</li><li>- Making all possible efforts to get the teaching concretized;</li><li>- Resorting to learners' motivation;</li><li>- Providing learners with exercises involving not only convergent production but also divergent production or transfer of knowledge that develops imagination and allows for discovery and creativity;</li><li>- Providing learners with a diagnostic feedback aimed at improving their learning.</li></ul>
5. Teacher's characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Knowledge [intelligible and skill-related, as well as value and attitude-related];</li><li>- Personality;</li><li>- Beliefs, perceptions and assumptions about students.</li></ul>