

PANEL DISCUSSION 3 QUALITY TEACHER EDUCATION: CONCLUSIONS

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Issues to discuss:

1. How good are our teachers?
 - A good teacher is open to becoming a better teacher- better not to think in terms of “good” and “bad” but in terms of the competencies they have.
 - What is a teacher? One who is a facilitator, manager, actor, manipulator, counselor, advisor, etc. and each role requires a different set of competences.
 - Somebody who can create a powerful learning environment. Meets the 5 basic needs: security, sense of belonging, success, fun, freedom.

2. How can they become better?
 - By becoming open to it.
 - Motivation is essential; if young teachers are not motivated, they leave teaching. Status and money are key to motivation.
 - Lack of in-school experience in preset programs creates problems... new teachers are overwhelmed by the challenges of the classroom, they get lost and many leave.
 - Creating a 2 year “probationary” period for new teachers
 - Creating an MA in Education.
 - Peer support, peer observation... perhaps better than “expert” input.

3. Which competencies did you develop during your professional career?
 - Communication skills like taking part in theater
 - Technical skills
 - Artistic skills
 - Resourceful
 - Classroom management
 - Assessment
 - Developing your own beliefs as a teacher... a process.
 - Cultural understandings... being able to place the language into cultural contexts.
 - Needs to adjust to the needs of the students. The teacher needs to be trained to identify the needs of the students.
 - Both knowledge (subject knowledge, pedagogical knowledge) and skills are necessary (e.g. reflective skills)
 - Love for learning- lifetime learning. Let the students know that we are also always learning. ... we are “lead learners”

- Teaching competencies come through experience...
- Change management... remaining flexible
- Capacity of reflection
- The benefits of sharing
- Research
- Socializing with each other... building up a professional community is rewarding.
- Finding out about our learners' needs... analyzing needs, using the feedback from our analysis.

4. Which competencies are necessary for the professional of the future?

- Technology, especially the computer.
- Internet and the possibilities of using it. www.wikipedia.com (on line encyclopedia)
- Communication skills like public speaking.... Being able to present to the students in a motivating way.
- Classroom management- being able to organize the classroom, for learning and with respect to discipline
- New skills are best in workshops where you apply it and where they are tried out.

Being selective about information

What type of training do you think you need to become a better teacher and acquire the competencies necessary for the teacher of the future?

- plenaries, hands-on workshops, self-access materials like listservs, discussion groups, web pages, journals.
- Critical: To let teachers know about these sources of teacher development. Getting the word out.