

Curriculum and Lesson Planning as Vital Components in Teaching: Teachers' Beliefs and Practices



By:

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Background

The success of a teacher in accomplishing his job can be seen from how far the objective of learning is attained. If students can attain the objectives of learning as planned, the teacher has a good reason to claim that he is successful in accomplishing his job. On the contrary, if the students fail to attain the objectives of learning, there is no reason for him to claim that he is successful in doing his job.

Background

It is also acknowledged that the success depends very much on how well the teacher understands the essence of curriculum and the implementation of it. The more he understands the curriculum, the more opportunity for him to be a successful teacher.

This is to say that having good understanding in school curriculum may lead teachers to well-planned and well-implemented teaching and learning activities.

Background

Based on the preliminary study, there are some teachers in Kalimantan island who are still confused with designing teaching plans due to insufficient knowledge about the concepts of designing learning goals and the achieved competence. Some even have wrong concepts of interpreting operational verbs to be used in the statement of learning goals.

Therefore, this study tries to explore teachers' beliefs on the importance of school curriculum and lesson planning. It also tries to obtain information about their practices in implementing school curriculum pertaining to problems and solutions they face.

Research Method

It applies mixed-methods approach and descriptive design to describe the quantitative and qualitative data from the survey and interview.

Subjects ==> 67
English teachers of
junior and senior
high schools in
Kalimantan island

Instruments ==>
Questionnaire and
interview guideline

Triangulation ==>
using questionnaire,
interview, and
document analysis

Findings from the Questionnaire

No	Statement	Responses (%)			
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Teachers should have knowledge about the function of curriculum	100	-	-	-
2	Teachers should have knowledge about the components of curriculum	100	-	-	-
3	School curriculum is the guideline for a good lesson planning	92	8	-	-
4	Without curriculum, teachers will be difficult in planning their lessons	100	-	-	-
5	Joining workshops on curriculum is very important.	88.1	10.4	1.5	-

Findings from the Questionnaire

Reasons for saying 'joining workshops on curriculum is very important'

No	Reasons	Total Subjects (%)
1	To improve knowledge about curriculum development	49
2	To enable them preparing good lessons	10
3	To have understanding about curriculum content	5
4	To be professional teachers	2

Findings from the Questionnaire

No	Statements	Responses			
		Always	Often	Seldom	Never
7	I have difficulties in designing learning goals		1.5	58.2	40.3
8	I have difficulties in selecting appropriate operational terms for learning goals		16.4	65.7	17.9
9	I have difficulties in deciding the suitable teaching model/strategy		6	73.1	20.9
10	I have difficulties in assessing students' language skills		9	56.7	34.3

Findings from the Interview

The interview is used to confirm teachers' responses in the questionnaire. The summary of the interview's results show that:

- Teachers believe that understanding toward school curriculum is very important for any teachers.
- Teachers still have problems dealing with formulating learning goals, using the operational verbs, selecting the teaching strategy, and assessing students' productive skills (speaking and writing).
- Teachers usually talk with their colleagues in Teaching Forum or read sources when they encounter the problems.

Conclusions

The English teachers in Kalimantan island have positive perception toward the school curriculum. They believe that teachers must have knowledge about school curriculum. However, some of them still have problems in designing learning goals, selecting operational verbs, selecting the right teaching strategy, and assessing students' skills in speaking and writing.

Recommendation

It is suggested to LPTK and Dinas Pendidikan to hold workshops and coaching clinic to help English teachers in Kalimantan island to solve problems in designing learning goals, selecting operational verbs, selecting the right teaching strategy, and assessing students' skills in speaking and writing.

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