Mauritius

Two-week workshop: Developing skills for a competencies-based approach in curriculum development

13-24 February 2006

Evaluation - final

1- Weak
2- Fair/Average
3 - Good
4 - Excellent

53 Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall quality of the workshop</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(27)</td>
<td>(25)</td>
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Excellent;
Very relevant to our concerns and goals;

1,8% 51% 47,2%
Good and appropriate for me as a subject panel member;

Valuable discussions;

Genuine issues were tackled;

Facilities were very good except the venue (not very appropriate for group work);

Very rich in information;

The workshop was carried out in a very professional manner;

Very interactive, but it would have worked better with a smaller group;

Very good presentations and discussions, but some more specific areas could have been tackled;

The activities were interesting, nevertheless we would need more inspiration for designing and implementing a new curriculum;

Top quality materials;

Cognitive conflict with creative and meaningful interactions;

More activities as to how to devise exercises/tasks enabling pupils to develop competencies could have been proposed;
Would have benefited from more hands-on writing exercises of curriculum materials;

Sometimes comments from participants were irrelevant;

Group work was very efficient;

Good organisation, despite the tight schedule;

Balanced agenda;

Like a ‘world class’ activity – one which we have now a chance to follow and to translate it into our own classes;

On the whole – it was very good – but I would like to know how to cater for the low achievers as well as average ones in terms of assessment;

Activities were well presented, well planned and reliable;

Covered a wide range of topics – defined terms clearly;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution of the resource person</th>
<th>(13)</th>
<th>(40)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>24,5</td>
<td>75,5%</td>
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Very insightful and knowledgeable;
Very competent and well-versed in curriculum development;

Constantly very high;

Unfortunately, her contributions have been somehow disturbed by futile discussions on the part of some of the participants;

Shared many personal experiences about curriculum;

Has a very in-depth knowledge of curriculum development;

Showed good listening skills,

Very receptive to comments and positive attitude;

Positive in all situations;

Pleasant and musical voice;

Very helpful to us, members of the subject panel;

Contributed much in terms of personal experiences and involving the participants in the activities;

Knows her subject well;

Outstanding. Very resourceful and supportive;

Delivered a lot to us;
Excellent – it’s the first time that we have got such a workshop;

She has done a marvellous job;

Accurate – she knows the field well and the workshop was fruitful;

The resource person has shown how professionalism is immersed in the topics discussed;

The workshop was well-planned and we are now ready to face the next, forthcoming issues;

Up to our expectations – very clear and precise;

Fostered interactions a lot;

Excellent ideas of how to foster student’s progress;

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<th>Contribution of the participants</th>
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<th>(5)</th>
<th>(34)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>1,8%</td>
<td>9,4%</td>
<td>64,2%</td>
<td>24,6</td>
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Comments

Active participation of all in activities and debates;
It has been a very interactive participation of our family of curriculum developers, though some of the coordinators did not attend;

Very good interaction amongst participants;

Some people tended to monopolize discussions;

Participants expressed constructive criticism towards our present curriculum;

Very good level of interaction, but some people talked only for their own benefits;

Wide range of discussions;

Based on experiences and geared towards the welfare of children;

Lack of active participation form these following institutions: Mauritius Exams Syndicate; Mahatma Gandhi Institute; Mauritius Institute of Education;

Areas convergent with the activity-based lessons;

Rapporteurs should have been given the opportunity to use PPT. or OHP in order to present the group work;

Too many discussions on issues other than the competencies-based approach;

I have the impression that some people have not said what they really wanted to….or what the realities are according to them;
Too much emphasis was laid upon the pre-voc system – what about the pupils of higher primary level?

Very active and rich;

The participants enjoyed to be an active part of the workshop;

I want to congratulate all participants for their valuable contributions;

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<td>45,3%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>Broad knowledge of curriculum (structure and content) and curriculum writing;</td>
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<td>Insight into the integration of transversal competencies into the curriculum;</td>
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<td>Workshop at international standards;</td>
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<td>Such workshops should be organized on a regular basis, depending on future actions;</td>
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Quite useful in terms of understanding the challenges linked with the development of the Curriculum Framework;

We would need to work more on how to translate the gains of the workshop into new curriculum materials, such as textbooks;

The workshop has at least given me more scope of how to improve the framing of textbooks though linking theory with students’ experiences;

Able to situate what curriculum writing is;

A practical and beneficial approach to competencies-based curriculum;

The workshop will only be useful if the recommendations can be successfully implemented and full support can be sought from the ministry;

It is not clear what is expected from us, members of the subject panel – how far can we go with revising/improving the curriculum/textbooks and changing the evaluation system;

Very informative;

Helped us to understand how the curriculum can be more user-friendly and motivate students to learn;

Hope that all what we discussed and shared will be implemented;

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We need to learn more in order to master good curriculum writing and implementation;

Appropriate and conducted at the right moment. Should also plan for such activities for teachers involved in curriculum development and implementation;

We got an idea of how to start with our task;

Very helpful for curriculum review and proposals for change to competencies-based approaches. Participants have been provided with adequate literature and materials for skills development in competencies-based curriculum;

It is the main opportunity to market the change which is more than necessary;

The workshop was very good – but will teachers accept these changes abruptly?

The workshop was OK, but 30-35% failures in our schools we cannot explain only through textbooks and curriculum. There are other factors, such as infrastructure, school environment, lack of parental support, lack of stakeholder support – these factors should be tackled too;

The workshop proved very beneficial to go public with such a competencies-based project to improve the curriculum;

I have doubts about the outcome – depends on what will happen next;
We should definitely try out and implement what we learned here;

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<tr>
<th><strong>Personal gains</strong></th>
<th>Never before I’ve attended such a workshop on curriculum reform. Therefore I benefited much from it especially on modern curriculum development and the issues of competencies;</th>
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<td>Some more knowledge about curriculum development and sharing with colleagues from other subject panels;</td>
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<td>Excellent interaction and sharing of ideas;</td>
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<td>Positive criticism about our own materials and suggestions for future improvement;</td>
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<td>I had an opportunity to express my views;</td>
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<td>Clear understanding of competencies;</td>
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<td>Everything is clearer to me now concerning curriculum work;</td>
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<td>Ideas about how to foster learning outcomes in terms of student competencies;</td>
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<td>Got an overview of the upcoming work to set up the new Curriculum Framework,</td>
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<td>Enjoyed the interactive aspect of the workshop;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The workshop has given me a very broad idea of what curriculum really is and what we are lacking, and what are the challenges looking at us</td>
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for improving the curriculum and for a better future;

Opinions of partners in curriculum from different levels;

Models of curriculum development from other countries;

I developed my communication skills;

Insight into the evaluation of competencies (especially of transversal competencies in the primary curriculum),

I am now convinced of the effectiveness of small-group work;

I understand now the urgent need of including many of these transversal competencies into our curriculum and textbooks;

I am now aware of how children benefit from a new curriculum;

Personally I have got the idea of how to proceed with the writing of the textbook and how the different skills can be addressed in redesigning our textbooks;

Many useful information about the curriculum framework and the overall process of curriculum development;

Learnt much from the resource person as regards the different curricula in other countries;
Handouts given were penetrating documents in curriculum development;

Gained more knowledge about writing textbooks, but I have still to ask myself how to unload the curriculum and how far to go in changing/improving the curriculum;

The resource person should further guide the panel members so that we can complete the exercise assigned to us;

The need to focus more on students for they are the ones who have to grow;

A thorough understanding of competency-based curriculum and its implications;

Learned a lot about how to integrate concepts in different learning areas;

Learned a lot about different skills needed in writing the curriculum for different learning areas;

I have learned a lot about the process of learning and curriculum integration;

A better experience of what is happening in the country and also an overall view of curricula from different other countries;

Advantages and challenges linked to competencies;
It was very informative, especially with regard to the Scandinavian experiences;

How to influence teaching and learning based on a good curriculum framework and improved learning materials;

How to link curriculum, teaching and learning strategies and assessment better;

How to conceive interesting activities as part of the formal curriculum;

I happened to build up on what I had in my scheme. These has been an extension of my knowledge regarding education and curriculum;

Techniques to enhance the acquisition and development of competencies in young children;

How curriculum documents could reflect a competencies-based approach;

I understood more about where the curriculum stands in the progress of a country;

Awareness of modern curriculum development as a dynamic process with many priorities, with many people involved and lots of challenges;

We feel now stronger to face these new challenges;

The most well-structured workshop I’ve attended so far;
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Suggestions for follow-up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To carry out more such activities in the future;</td>
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<td>The workshop report should be circulated to all participants;</td>
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<td>The outcomes of this workshop should go to schools – teachers are actually agents of change;</td>
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<tr>
<td>We need to identify other issues to be further addressed;</td>
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<td>I wish we will all be part of the follow-up process;</td>
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<td>Once the framework is set up/finalised, some pre-testing of new resource materials should be undertaken;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Another similar workshop to evaluate the new Framework and learning materials;</td>
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<td>More teachers should also be invited to participate in such workshops;</td>
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<td>To be more subject-oriented;</td>
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<tr>
<td>To focus more on implementation and changes in assessment strategies at primary level;</td>
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The MoE should be less prescriptive, and listen more to people who are in direct contact with schools. They should take into account more the real situation in schools today;

Teacher training should be also envisaged if we want a competencies-based approach;

More focus on implementation and monitoring at subject level;

To take into consideration the children’s needs (on short-, medium- and long-term);

All the workshop recommendations should be implemented as soon as possible;

Curriculum developers should be given incentives;

Changes of the assessment system, as to fit the competencies-based approach;

Piloting and monitoring of new materials;

The UNESCO resource person should take part in the follow-up and should help us evaluate and monitor the new materials;

It is now a must to go on with such an important project. Up to now I have understood a lot of new things about writing the new curriculum materials.

We also need to focus on some aspects which we
did not have time to focus now;

We would need more such workshops for primary education only;

Regular such workshops including all stakeholders;

We have to reconsider the adequacy of resource persons/members per different subject panels;

A library has to be set up for resource persons/members of the subject panels to consult up-to-date literature;

Follow-up should be done with the same UNESCO resource person;

Regular meetings of different panels;

A good delegation for Burkina Fasso (curriculum and poverty alleviation project);

To improve our systematic process of curriculum development;

A curriculum committee to be set up and links to be established with all stakeholders;

Plan for a good time frame of the curriculum reform;

To know more about how to evaluate transversal competencies;

To learn more about modern layout of textbooks
in support of quality learning;

The workshop has been substantially organised and the outcomes have excelled. My suggestion is that they should not be put in a drawer. A Comité d’élite must be set-up to further monitor the work.

Similar workshops devoted to specific learning areas;

Setting up a documentation centre with adequate materials for curriculum development;

Regular meetings for monitoring and feedback;

We are ready for the next workshop – so we are looking for it,

Involve the teacher unions in similar type of activity;

The teacher guides to be more explicit about the idea of this new competencies-based curriculum;

More focus also on research activities;

There should be more coordination among stakeholders – to date, various components of our education system are under the authority of different bodies;

More autonomy should be given to primary inspectors,

Ample facilities should be given to all schools for
the implementation of the new curriculum;

Coordinators must visit the schools regularly;

Coordinators and textbook authors should be granted more time and facilities to work properly;

Workshop to analyse the new curriculum framework,

Give clear instructions concerning counselling and orientation;

Participants from Rodrigues are very thankful to the MoE for having invited them to this workshop and want to stay close to further developments – thus they would like to be further part of the announced curriculum reform;

To reduce the work load of students based on quality standards;