Becoming Highly Professional Teachers

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What makes a good teacher VS What makes a professional teacher?

Students’ voices:

- They should make their lessons interesting so you don’t fall asleep in them.
- A teacher must love her job. If she really enjoys her job that’ll make the lessons more interesting.
- I like the teacher who has his own personality and doesn’t hide it from the students so that he is not only a teacher but a person as well – and it comes through the lesson.
- Your own voice?
What makes a good teacher?

A simple answer to this question is that good teachers care more about their students’ learning than they do about their own teaching.

This awareness should then inspire a good teacher to be a professional teacher.
What makes a professional teacher?

TEACHERS AS CURRICULA DEVELOPERS
Curricular spider web

- Rationale
- Aims & Objectives
- Content
- Learning activities
- Teacher role
- Materials & Resources
- Grouping
- Time
- Location
- Assessment
What practices do English teachers have to know?

- Understanding the current ELT curriculum
- Understanding their position within the curriculum
- Formulating, developing, and managing their own teaching-learning process
- Developing their own language awareness
- Developing their professional teaching career
Understanding ELT Curriculum

Changes (Richards 2007)

New curriculum frameworks currently being implemented in different parts of the world include *competency based*, *genre based*, and *content based*.

English is now being introduced at primary rather than secondary level.

Innovations teachers are being asked to consider are *Multiple Intelligences*, *Co-operative Learning*, *Task-Based Instruction*, and *alternative Assessment*.

A framework of curriculum that offers more space to teachers’ innovation, creativity, and autonomy.
What are the Goals of Teaching English?

**Then**
- English as cultural enrichment
- English the language of English speaking countries
- Teachers seen as cultural informants
- Literature an important dimension of lg. learning
- NS accent the target
- NS-like fluency the target

**Now**
- English as a practical tool
- English a world commodity
- Engl. Learning not necessarily linked to US or British cultural values
- Engl. Teaching linked to national value
- Mother-tongue influenced accent acceptable as well as NS accent
- Comprehensibility the target
Understanding Teachers’ Position within Curriculum

- Being positioned as curricular developers
- Being more as a facilitator rather than simply as a source (student-centered vs teacher-centered)
Consequences for being Curricula Developers

Formulating, developing, and managing their own teaching-learning process:

✓ **Aims & objectives**
  - Specify general aims for the lessons series and specific objectives per lesson unit for each grade level
  - Reflect on national standards
    - Learning outcomes
    - Assessment standards
Consequences for being Curricula Developers

**Content**
- Specify themes and topics for the lesson series
- Reflect on conceptual consistency (between themes) and sequencing between grade levels

**Learning activities & Teacher role**
- Specify what activities are expected from the learner and how these are supported by the teacher
- Reflect on balance between
  - Whole-class activities (eg. Introduction/closing of the lesson)
  - Activities in grade groups
Consequences for being Curricula Developers

- **Materials & resources**
  - Specify what materials and resources are needed to conduct the lesson
  - Reflect on what is available in schools and how parts of existing textbooks can be used as inspiration and/or background for the lesson materials?

- **Grouping**
  - Specify how pupils are to be grouped during the lessons

- **Location**
  - Specify where pupils will be grouped during the lesson

- **Time**
  - Specify the time available for the different lesson elements
  - Reflect on time available for whole class instruction, individual (independent) work, individual coaching of students

- **Assessment**
  - Specify how learners’ progress will be tested
Consequences for being Curricula Developers

In short, a curricula developer must know how to do the following practices:

- Planning and preparing a lesson or sequence of lessons
- Selecting & using resources and materials
- Managing the teaching and learning process (teachers’ - learners’ language in the classroom and classroom management)
Developing English Teachers’ Language Awareness

- Teachers of language must have adequate understanding of language
- A good understanding of language is needed for teachers to:
  1. formulate the objective of the teaching
  2. select appropriate materials
  3. design learning tasks and activities which make learners learn effectively
  4. do valid and reliable evaluation
What has been happening now?

- Language awareness is found inadequate among teachers. Therefore, they tend to view language as a well-pruned bonsai tree of syntax and only take into account the materials of the teaching but neglect the learning tasks and activities and other important aspects of the teaching.

- Teacher-training programs do not guarantee helping them develop their sensitivity to language.
Developing Teacher as a Profession

- Teacher Certification Program – Does it motivate teachers to keep on developing their profession?
- Kompas in its several publications stated that teachers’ professional allowance has not proven effective to support teachers’ professional development.
- Teachers are still reluctant to make the most of their efforts to become more professional teachers.
Components of variance in student achievement

Why Assessing Teachers?

- High stakes decisions: licensing, hiring, selection
- Supporting professional development
- Monitoring implementation of curriculum innovations
- Accountability (e.g. TIMMS)
Is teacher quality an everlasting attribute?

Rosenholtz, 1986
Thank you