OPTIMISM, ASPIRATION AND REALITY IN BLENDED LEARNING FOR CURRICULUM REFORM

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A BASKET OF ITEMS

- Engaged learning
- Active, collaborative and interactive pedagogy
- Student-centredness
- Authentic learning
- Real-world issues
The web of engaged learning

Collaborative, active, interactive, student-centred, real-world pedagogy

Raised student achievement and performance

Curriculum and assessment change and development

ICT competencies, skills and usage

Raised student motivation, attitude and interest

Parental involvement and communication

ENGAGED LEARNING
CHALLENGES

• Limited motivation and interest
• Under-achievement
• Marks + exams + pass/fail = pressure
• Limited interactivity and collaborative work
• Poor attitudes and behaviour
• Traditional didactic teaching
• Little staff expertise in non-traditional pedagogy
• Limited use of ICT
CHALLENGES

• Curriculum irrelevance: narrow academic focus
• Students repeating
• Easy employment
• Limited student control of learning
• Large class sizes
• Low order thinking
• Private lessons
ICT + STAFF DEVELOPMENT + LEADERSHIP → ENGAGED LEARNING

THE SOLUTION?
EVALUATION

• True experiment: test results
• Survey: questionnaire + interview
• Journals: teachers
• Logged data: server
The U-Curve of Innovation
UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES

- Practical
- Human and managerial
- Leadership
- Pedagogical
- Student performance
- Uneven improvements
- Parental
- ICT
POSITIVES

• Students
• Senior staff
• Teachers
POSITIES

• Enhanced students’ ICT competencies
• Improved student motivation, attitudes and confidence
• Promoted collaborative and interactive learning
• Promoted student-centred learning and higher order thinking
• Drove in new pedagogies
• Enhanced staff pedagogical expertise
• Promoted e-learning and blended learning
• Used online assessments
• Enabled students to review lessons
• Improved student behaviour
• Installed adventurous homework
• Exceeded the leaders’ expectations in bringing in change.
SETBACKS

• General
• Students
• Parents
• Teachers
• Senior staff
• Pedagogy
MODERATE POSITIVE EFFECTS

• Group-based work
• Software/programs/ICT-based materials
• Discussion boards/forums
• Real time discussion boards/forums
• Uploading teaching materials
• Teachers using other electronic ways of communicating out of class to help students with learning
• Teachers using email out of class
STRONG POSITIVE EFFECTS

• Use of ICT in learning in class
• Handing in work/homework electronically
LESSONS LEARNED

- Leadership & focus
- Staff commitment
- Capacity building in students and teachers
- Change perceptions
- Management clarity
- Parental concerns
- Conditions for the innovation
- Organizational culture
- Mandated change
LESSONS LEARNED

• Workload
• Enthusiasm
• Parents’ expertise
• Implementation dip
• High hopes & expectations
• Incremental change
• Keep the faith
• Ambitious but realistic leadership
• Communication
• Listen & act
CHANGE DISTURBS . . .

- Systems
- Relationships
- Practice
- Power
- Values
- People
- Personas
- Leadership
THANK YOU