

Collaboration to Improve English Teaching in Difficult Circumstances

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A. Procedures shared in the session

1. Sharing success stories

1. think of a recent successful teaching experience
2. share it in a group
3. tell it to a partner
4. tell it (standing up) to two others
5. tell it again, in front of everybody

[Variation: ask each other 'Why / what made it successful?', and 'How could you reproduce that success, in a different way, in a different (or the same) class?']

2. From problems to questions – and possible answers

1. think of a problem, or puzzle, in your teaching situation
2. turn the problem into a question (e.g. 'my students aren't motivated to speak in English' -> 'what can I do to encourage my students to speak in English?')
3. write the problem and the question on a poster. Ask other teachers to write their name next to questions they think they have possible answers to
4. interview the teachers who offered answers
5. formulate an action plan
6. report on all the above to colleagues – and try out the action plan

B. Resources and useful links

British Council TeachingEnglish: 'Teacher development in Low-resource classrooms'

Teachers from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan share their stories of successes in low-resource primary and secondary classrooms. The groups of teachers also look at different aspects of:

- diversity, including multilingual and multicultural contexts
- classroom management in large classes
- materials and methodology in low-resource contexts

These training materials were developed from the Hornby Regional School in Nepal in 2013. They include video presentations, reflection and discussion questions and some brief tasks to help you to consider your own practice.

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/low-resource-classrooms>

TELC-net: Teaching English in Large Classes research & teacher development network

TELC-net was originally set up in 2008. It aims to share and disseminate good practices relating to teaching in large classes / teaching in otherwise 'low-resourced' or challenging circumstances in developing countries and to promote further exploratory research and practice in such circumstances. You can find videos, talks, workshops, publications and resources

<http://telcnet.weebly.com/>

TELC-net: Resources for teachers and teacher educators

This is a collection of links to practical advice and other resources for teachers of large classes. These include articles, videos and examples of research projects.

<http://telcnet.weebly.com/resources.html>

TELC-net Facebook Group

TELC-net also has a Facebook Group with over 3,000 members. You can join here to to keep up to date with what TELC-net and other relevant opportunities.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/146198305504251/>

Resources for teacher educators

Most of the materials on this page were developed by Mais Ajjan, Harry Kuchah and Richard Smith for a group of Malaysian pre-service teacher trainees in January 2012 and by Richard Smith for subsequent workshops and webinars with in-service teachers, especially in Nepal. They are freely available and you can give feedback about how useful they were to you.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/research/groups/lta/resources/telc/training>

Exploratory Action Research in Chile: Champion Teachers Action Research project

This website provides information about Exploratory Action Research approach and how this is being used within an action research project in Chile (2013 to present).

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/research/groups/lta/research/trdc/ear/>

Champion Teachers Action Research Project

This website shows how the Champion Teachers Action research project was implemented in Chile. It provides links to videos and further information about the project and how to use action research in your own practice.

<http://championteachers.weebly.com/>

Teacher-research for difficult circumstances: Sharing research

This link provides information about how to share research. It focuses on how you can use recordings of short oral presentations of your work to help to write up research. It also offers links to publications and further 'sharing research' resources.

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/research/groups/lta/research/trdc/teachers_research/

AINET – All-India Network of English Teachers - <http://theainet.net/>

IATEFL Research Special Interest Group - <http://resig.iatefl.org>