Evaluating the impact of the Arts in Education

UNESCO Expert Symposium on Arts Education in Asia
Hong Kong SAR China
9-11 January 2004
Report Jan 10 2004
Nidja Noongar Boodjar Noonook Nyininy

This is Noongar Country you are sitting in
Focus of session

- Practical methods of assessing the impacts of arts education
  - How will we know that what we do makes a difference in the lives and learning of our students?
  - How will we communicate the significance of what we do to decision makers?
The Realities of Music Education in Korea
Prof. Ki-Beom Jang

Context:
- Curriculum reform in Korea

Type of study:
- Long term case study in progress
- Music
- Across a large sample, diverse range of students and ages, backgrounds; diverse range of teachers and contexts
- Impact on
  - Academic [mathematics]
  - Behavioural traits [Assiduity, cooperation, creativity, etc]
- Incorporation of technology

Reason for the study
- To influence policy makers through hard data

Methodology
- Quasi-experimental
  - KoMAP - half standardised web based

Where next?
- Statistical analysis
- Exploration of positive relationships found in study

Questions
- Czech - teaching maths through music
- Sanskrit materials already existing in the Asian tradition
Development of Arts Syllabus and Consultative Curriculum Development

Prof. Madonna Stinson

Context:
- Curriculum reform in Queensland

Type of study:
- Diversity across urban, rural, remote schools
- Meeting the needs of a mandated arts curriculum
- Action research - developing ideas, trialing materials
- Externally evaluated - quantitatively
- Intrinsic and instrumental purpose of the arts

Reason for the study
- To change teaching practice and student learning

Methodology
- Collaborative
- From the ground up - grass roots
- Principles of practice [rather than syllabus content]
- Action research

Where next?
- Support materials provided and freely available
- Privileging of some art forms
- Support for teachers
  - Singapore - situation has potential for change
  - Learning as they go
- Assessment
- Consultation include students
Artists in Schools - the Arts-in-Education Project

Prof. Jane Cheung

Context:
- Curriculum reform in Hong Kong

Type of study:
- Description of Artists in Schools project
  - 2 schools

Reason for the study:
- To evaluate the Artists-in-Schools project with a view to reporting it, evaluating its effectiveness and disseminating information leading to change in teaching and other schools.

Methodology
- Qualitative
  - Lesson observation
  - Semi-structured interview
  - Focus groups
  - Document review

Findings:
- Time in schools
- Move from exam oriented curriculum
- Soft boundaries between subjects - integrated learning
- Administrative support - process as well as product
- Student learning - artistic skills enhanced [not watered down]
- Creativity enhanced
- Personal and social skills
- Motivation and joyful learning
- Affective - peak experiences
Focusing Ateliers

- **What topics would you like to research?**
  - What would be the research questions for those topics?
  - What specific variables would you consider?
- **What methods or approaches would you use?**
  - What would be the relationship between qualitative and quantitative research approaches?
- **How could UNESCO - and each of us - contribute to a community of research?**
The Arts in education

- We are the water that sustains education

- We are the water that wears and shapes the stone
The Arts Teacher is Dancing!
Contact

Robin Pascoe
Senior Lecturer,
School of Education, Murdoch University
- South Street,
  Murdoch, Western Australia 6150
Phone 61 + (0)8 9360 7448
Fax 61 + (0)8 9360 6296
rpascoe@central.murdoch.edu.au