
The Reflective Practitioner

EDRS5450

WHY DO RESEARCH?

BEN BITU

The Reflective Practitioner – EDRS 5450

- Overview
 - This course focuses on conducting action research in the classroom or in the wider school and reporting on it.
 - The reflective practitioner
 - What it means to be a teacher/administrator?
 - This is a preliminary course in school/classroom-based enquiry, which provides participants with initial training to conduct practice-based enquiries.
- Assessment – Action Research Project & Journals
 - An action research report – 80%
 - An action research reflective journals – 20%

LISTEN to your supervisor...!!!



Objectives

To explore:

- What is research?
- The purpose of Educational Research:
 - Professional Development
 - School Development
 - National & Regional Development
 - Field of Research in Education



Why do research?

- *What was the experience of doing the first Foundations and Issues Assignment like for a selected Dip Ed student from the 2018-2019 cohort?*
- *Interview:*
 - *2 persons – a participant & a researcher.*
 - *Ask questions about the experiences*
 - *Record their answers*
 - *Present your findings - 5 minutes.*

How would these findings be useful to the SOE?



What is Research?

- Research is... an activity that involves **finding out**, in a more or less **systematic way**, things you did not know (Walliman, 2011, p. 7).
- Research may be very broadly defined as **systematic gathering of data and information** and its analysis **for advancement of knowledge** in any subject (La Jolla, 2016).
- Research is **systematic, critical and self-critical enquiry** which aims to contribute towards the advancement of knowledge and wisdom (Bassegy, 1999).

Education Research

- Education research is *the scientific field of study* that examines education and learning processes and the human attributes, interactions, organizations, and institutions that shape educational outcomes.
- Scholarship in the field *seeks to describe, understand, and explain how learning takes place* throughout a person's life and how formal and informal contexts of education affect all forms of learning.
- Education research embraces the full spectrum of rigorous methods appropriate to the questions being asked and also *drives the development of new tools and methods*.

(American Educational Research Association, 2017)

Education Research:

An intentional practice that typically follows a step-wise process and is designed to **identify and understand current problems of practice** (Lochmiller & Lester, 2016, p. 4)



Education Research

- A quest to make sense of the world around us.
 - Assumption of a physicalist universe
 - Cause and effect nature
 - Level of predictability - scientific enquiry
- Quest for empirical understandings
- Social world could be changed based on scientific principles
- Concerns about the purpose of education
- Indigenous knowledge.



Purpose of Educational Research

- Professional Development
- School Development
- National & Regional Development
- Field of Research in Education



Educational Research:

What are the benefits of conducting educational research...?

Middle – Professional Development

My left – School Development

My Right – National and Regional Development

Overflow Room – Contribution to Research in Education

Think (2 mins), Pair (3 mins), Share (10 mins), Present (2 mins)....

Professional Development

- Need to know/understand what is being discussed.
- How to evaluate the quality of educational research.
- How to assess the contextual value of other research.
- Epistemological sovereignty/ autonomy
 - Emancipatory and empowering
- Informs educators how to adapt to changing contexts and times.

Professional Development

- The end result of Crawford's survey of the research literature comes with the recommendation that teachers should engage in research (Crawford, 2007).
- Improve the quality of learning.
- Help build/raise the profile of your profession.
- Bridge the gap between theory and practice (Ulanoff, Vega-Castaneda & Quiococho, 2003).
- To be taken seriously – increase credibility.

Professional Development

- Contribution to teachers' self-efficacy
- Personal and Professional assessment
- Contributes to being a life-long learner
- To experience the joys of doing research

School Development

- School administration and leadership
- Contribute to a *community of practice*
- Help schools remain relevant
- Assess what is working or not working
- Assess school needs
- Strategic Planning/Action Plan



School Development

- Human Resource Management & Development
- Promote Equity
- Benchmarking (International, Regional & National)
- School Culture and Ethos



National & Regional Development

- To produce indigenous knowledge
- Developing and sustaining national and regional viability
- Social reform
- Resource Allocation
- Maintain International Relevance



Field of Research in Education

- Problems of practice
- Build knowledge and understanding
- Contribute to the scholarly discussion
- Adds a Caribbean perspective
- Reformation of ideas



True/False

- Research is an activity that involves finding out, in a more or less systematic way, things you did not know.
- Educational Research is an intentional practice that rarely follows a process and is designed to identify and understand current problems of practice.
- Educational Research informs educators how to adapt to changing contexts and times.
- Educational Research does not give value to being a part of a community of practice.
- Teachers are researchers.

The clever man will tell you what he knows; he may even try to explain it to you. The wise man encourages you to discover it for yourself, even though he knows it inside out.

- *Revans (1980), quoted in Action Research, Principles and Practice, McNiff, 1988, p.52*

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You!!!**

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