Perspectives on In-School Parent Education - Knowledge Exchange Forum

Programme Rundown

10:00  Welcome address
Professor Stephen Andrews – Dean
Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong

10:05  In-school parent education
Dr. Pang Ming Fai – Associate Dean and Associate Professor
Dr. Luis Go, Project Manager – Parental learning
Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong

10:20  Parent education in Singapore
Mr. Edmund Lim – School Principal
Hua Min Primary School

10:50  Perspectives on parent education in Hong Kong
Mr. Eric Chan Sze Yuen – IMC School Manager
Ms. Christina Ho Po Po – Parent Education Facilitator
Mrs. Catherine Sze Lam Lai Kwan – PTA Chair Lady
Tak Sun Secondary School

11:20  Perspectives on parent education in Hong Kong
Mrs. Gloria Chan Leung Suk Ching – School Principal
Miss Tanny Lai Tan Man – Asst. Principal & Parent Education Coordinator
Mrs. Lydia Ip Lau Wing Shun – Parent
Kau Yan School

11:50  Question and Answer
Moderators – Dr. Luis Go and Dr. Pang Ming Fai
Perspectives on In-School Parent Education

Knowledge Exchange Forum

22 March 2014  Saturday
Questions:

- How do parents learn?
- What are the implications on parent education?
- How do schools facilitate parental learning?
- Why “In-School Parent Education”?
- What are the roles of parents, schools and other stakeholders such as the government and the EDB?
PERSPECTIVES ON IN-SCHOOL PARENT EDUCATION
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FORUM

School principal (Singapore) Mr. Edmund Lim
School principal (Hong Kong) Mrs. Gloria Chan Leung Suk Ching
IMC school manager Mr. Eric Chan Sze Yuen
School parent education coordinator Ms. Tanny Lai Tan Man
Parent education facilitator Ms. Christina Ho Po Po
PTA Chair Lady Mrs. Catherine Sze Lam Lai Kwan
Parent Mrs. Lydia Ip Lau Wing Shun
Academics Dr. Pang Ming Fai and Dr. Luis Go
An Essential Premise

In order to help children/students learn better, we need to help parents learn better.

- Schools and parents as learning partners to facilitate parental learning.
- Schools and parents as learning partners to facilitate student learning.

Parents as learners:
- Are they aware of the need to learn to become better parents?
- What do parents need to learn so that they become better parents?
- How do parents learn to become better parents?

Schools as learners:
- Are they aware of the need to learn how to enhance parental learning and subsequently student learning?
- What do schools need to learn to support parental learning?
- How do schools support parental learning?
How do parents learn?

SURFACE Learning

and

DEEP Learning
PARENTS AS LEARNERS

How do parents learn?

SURFACE Learning
rote learning, model answers
How do parents learn?

DEEP Learning

for understanding and for the meaning
How do parents learn?

SURFACE Learning
rote learning, model answer

and

DEEP Learning
understanding the meaning of concepts

SIX CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTAL LEARNING
PHENOMENOGRAPHIC RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG SWEDEN

Surface Learning Approach
A. As recalling parenting experiences
B. As acquiring problem solving skills
C. As applying problem solving skills

Deep Learning Approach
1. As awareness of the parent-child system
2. As alternative understanding to parenting
3. As change of person
## Parents as Learners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Learning Approach</th>
<th>Deep Learning Approach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obtain information (transmission)</td>
<td>Understand the meaning of parenting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quick fix solutions</td>
<td>Enduring solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavior control (Child focus)</td>
<td>Parent-child relationship (System focus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acquisition of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Critical reflection of assumptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remedial</td>
<td>Developmental</td>
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Implications?
To parents
To school leaders and educators
To parent education practitioners
To education policy makers
PARENTS AS LEARNERS

The implications to parents

What kind of learner am I?

Surface Learning
A. As recalling parenting experiences
B. As acquiring problem solving skills
C. As applying problem solving skills

Deep Learning
1. As awareness of the parent-child system
2. As seeing alternative understanding to parenting
3. As change of person
PARENTS AND SCHOOLS AS LEARNING PARTNERS

How do parents learn?

- Surface versus deep learning
- Pragmatic versus critical reflection
- Child focus versus system approach

What do parents learn?

- Quick fix and systemic solutions
- Behavior control and relationship building
The implications to educators, school leaders and parent education practitioners

The Basic Premise
In order to help our students learn better, we need to help their parents learn better.

Surface and deep learning
Pragmatic and critical reflection
Child behavior control and systemic approach
Behavior control and relationship building
Quick fix and enduring solutions
Is it the mandate of the schools to enable parents to become primary educators?

Are parents the primary educators of their children?
Parents as the primary educators

A1.2 Assist parents, who are the primary educators of their children, in the education and religious formation of their children.

“Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore be recognized as the primary and principal educators. This role of education is so important that only with difficulty can it be supplied where it is lacking.” (*Gravissimum Educationis*, Declaration of Vatican II on Catholic Education, 28 October 1965, s.3)

“...schools are of great importance, since they are the principal means of helping parents fulfill their role in education.” (*Code of Canon Law*, Can.796 s.1)

The home more than the school

“That schools bring little influence to bear on the child’s achievement that is independent of his background and general social context; and that this very lack of an independent effect means that the inequalities imposed on children by their home, neighborhood, and peer environment are carried along to become inequalities with which they confront adult life at the end of school.”

James Coleman, 1966. Equality of Educational Opportunity
An ideal venue for deep and reflexive parental learning

- Reduced learners’ diversity
- Natural and sustained contact
- Monitor the development of the children and the parents
- Parents learning with the developing child
IN-SCHOOL PARENT EDUCATION

The government and the development of in-school parent education

- Supporting policies
- Resources
- Training and expertise
The need for all the stakeholders to learn and work together towards **strengthening the education of our children through strengthening parental learning**