



## 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



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**Perspectives on**  
**In-School**  
**Parent Education**

Knowledge Exchange Forum

22 March 2014 Saturday

# **PERSPECTIVES ON IN-SCHOOL PARENT EDUCATION**

## **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



# PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL

## 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?



# PARENTS AS LEARNERS

How do parents learn?

**SURFACE Learning**  
**and**  
**DEEP Learning**





# PARENTS AS LEARNERS

How do parents learn?

**SURFACE Learning**

rote learning, model answers



# PARENTS AS LEARNERS

How do parents learn?

**DEEP Learning**

for understanding and for the meaning



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# PARENTS AS LEARNERS

## How do parents learn?

### **SURFACE Learning**

rote learning, model answer

**and**

### **DEEP Learning**

understanding the meaning of concepts

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Go, L. (2013). Conceptions of parental learning. PhD Thesis. The University of Hong Kong



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# 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

| Surface Learning Approach           | Deep Learning Approach                   |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Obtain information (transmission)   | Understand the meaning of parenting      |
| Quick fix solutions                 | Enduring solutions                       |
| Behavior control (Child focus)      | Parent-child relationship (System focus) |
| Acquisition of knowledge and skills | Critical reflection of assumptions       |
| Remedial                            | Developmental                            |

Go, L. (2013). Conceptions of parental learning. PhD Thesis. The University of Hong Kong



# **PARENTS AS LEARNERS**

**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**





# PARENTS AND SCHOOLS AS LEARNING PARTNERS

**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**



# **PARENTS AND SCHOOLS AS LEARNING PARTNERS**

**Is it the mandate of the schools to enable  
parents to become primary educators?**

**Are parents the primary educators of their  
children?**



# IN-SCHOOL PARENT EDUCATION

## 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)**

**Mgr. Marcus Stock, 2012. *Christ at the Centre. Why the Church provides Catholic schools.* Catholic Truth Society**



# IN-SCHOOL PARENT EDUCATION

## 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**





# **IN-SCHOOL PARENT EDUCATION**

## **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**





# IN-SCHOOL PARENT EDUCATION

**The need for all the stakeholders to learn and work together towards **strengthening the education of our children** through **strengthening parental learning****



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