

Title: **Changing Contexts: an opportunity for reflection**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

- Discuss the unique opportunities for reflection when changing context of teaching
- Discuss ways in which changing context can enhance delivery 'at home'
- Identify ways in which reflection on practice actually occurs and the practical difficulties in 'capturing' reflection

Session Outline

This paper outlines the learning gained from adapting a programme designed for our internal staff to meet the needs of a diverse group of sub-Saharan African educators who met in The Gambia. The experience provided us with a unique opportunity to evaluate and reflect on our own programme, both during the restructuring and the delivery. The whole programme for the African educators is being externally researched and evaluated as part of a funded programme. Evidence on reflection was gathered through interviews with the teachers. This was supported by interviews with participants and through observation of the classroom delivery.

During the intense week of delivery in Banjul, we realised very quickly that we had to try to 'capture our learning' before the uniqueness of the opportunity disappeared in the day to day intensity. The paper will describe our learning about the process of reflection-in-action and the improvement possibilities for the next stage of the programme. This process of reflection on our immediate learning also stimulated consideration of how we reflect during our 'regular' work.

Changing contexts so dramatically forces reflection on assumptions and creates a heightened sense of questioning. This provided an opportunity to think about our experiences in relation to the literature on reflection.

The paper will summarise our learning, the processes that helped us to capture this learning and practical outcomes from the whole experience. The discussions will focus on ways that others might take something from the session.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

- Outline of the adaptation and delivery of the first stage of our staff training programme. 10mins
- Review of reflection and description of processes used 10mins
- Identification of key learning and action taken 10mins
- Discussion in groups about stimuli for reflection, practical realities and possible ways to enhance our own 'regular' reflection 10mins
- Summary 5mins

References

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