

Title of Research Project: Developing Effective Pedagogy Using a Lesson Study Approach

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Relevant key words: Lesson Study; Pedagogy; Professional Collaboration; Sustainability; Home Economics Education

Summary:

This project involved the implementation of a Lesson Study cycle with four Home Economics teachers. The team designed, implemented, and evaluated a 'research lesson'. The aim of the project was to enhance the Home Economics teachers' use of pedagogy including teaching approaches, related strategies, and consequently student learning. This was achieved by following the stages of a Lesson Study cycle including goal formulation (the improvement of pedagogy and teaching of sustainability content), lesson planning, lesson implementation, and evaluation (including reflection, lesson deconstruction, and sharing learning).

The key research questions were as follows:

- a) Can a Lesson Study approach provide opportunities for teachers to evaluate pedagogical beliefs and practice, engage in critical reflection and professional collaboration?
- b) What is the impact of Lesson Study practice on student outcomes and pedagogical practice?

The project concludes that Lesson Study provides a formal structure for bringing teachers together to talk about the type and nature of teaching and learning activities. Teachers evaluate different approaches to teaching and make explicit tacit knowledge pertaining to content and activity selection. The teachers were 'learning catalysts' for one another and had more intellectual resources at their disposal, resulting in collective gain and improved pedagogical and learning outcomes.

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