

A BRIEF REPORT ON THE TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE NEW LOWER SECONDARY CURRICULUM HELD AT KISIKI COLLEGE NAMUTUMBA,

30th August to 5th September 2020

Session reports by Ananias Ssemusu, Francis Mwesigye and Antony Peter Bulolo

Monday 31st August 2020

The training started on 31st August 2020 with a colorful opening ceremony presided over by the District Education Officer, Namutumba District, Mr. Ishiko Muhammed. The participants and the facilitators also attended in high numbers. In attendance were the school head teacher Ms. Irene Nairubi and a number of other school heads in the two districts. They considered it high stakes meet, the first of its kind in the area. Excitement was visibly displayed by all in attendance.

The MCs, Ananias Ssemusu and Francis Mwesigye led the ceremony starting with energizers to cheer up the participants, anthems and prayer. Participants were guided to elect their leaders (Edward Gabula, Dorothy Nyabura, and David Nandhubu) and set up ground rules for the training as well as raising the expectations.

Speeches

During the ceremony, remarks were given:

1. Officer in Charge (OC) - Wandera Besy
 - The OC gave an inspirational, informative and moving presentation that set a good pace for the training.
 - Welcomed all the stakeholders to the workshop and congratulated the participants upon having made it the few selected ones
 - Read a letter from the First Lady as a form of assurance to the participants that they were in a correctly legal forum. Made further reference to Foreword in the Syllabus books which was by the First Lady and the Minister of Education and Sports?
 - Read the SOPs and their significance and called upon members to adhere to them or be expelled from the training venue.
 - Gave highlights of why the change in curriculum, the key changes in the curriculum which included KLO, GS, CCI, Values, subject menu, reduction of the school day time amongst others.
 - Informed members that they now lived in a VUCA world which required a person with full KUSVA to manage
 - Concluded by the new CBC is aimed at **producing a citizen with employable skills who is competitive in the Job Market.**
2. Head teacher, M/s Irene Nairuba
 - Welcomed and introduced the participants by school and district
 - Noted that participants from 30 schools had already reported
 - Appreciated NCDC for choosing Namutumba and specifically Kisiki College to host the inaugural workshop in the area
 - Called upon participants to actively participate in the training activities since these was a trial on them for any further engagement with NCDC and the MoES in general

- Reechoed the need to follow the SOPs and gave further guidance thereof
- Pledged on behalf of the host school to provide a conducive environment during the entire training
- Gave details of welfare including accommodation, meals, transport refund and off-pocket allowances
- Ended by wishing the participants the best of luck in the training

3. The Chief Guest

- Welcomed facilitators to the district and the participants to the training
- Thanked the GoU, MoES and NCDC for choosing Namutumba in the true spirit of taking services to the people
- Requested NCDC to consider more trainings in the area or increase the number of participants since many were still left out.
- Appreciated that the training must be very costly to the government which should call for high dedication of the participants in terms of attendance and implementation
- Informed them that they were very lucky to have been among the selected few hence the need to pick as much as possible to enable them implement the curriculum
- Noted that the presentation by the OC had been so informative that he now felt competent enough to answer most of the question he had faced previously
- He lightened the participants when he said that if only the introduction can be such energizing, then the entire training will be a thrill.
- Ended by declaring the workshop open

After break session

The participants were divided into three groups basing on their subject's specialties, and after break, the participants in the different subjects went to their different rooms.

Session 2 and 3, covered the rationale for the subjects in the curriculum and the features of the syllabus. The participants were quite receptive and adaptive to the New Lower Secondary Curriculum.

After lunch session

In session 4, the participants were taken through the integration of ICT in teaching and learning processes. They were appreciative of the fact that ICT was integrated into the new curriculum.

In session 5, the activity based teaching and learning was handled. Participants organized and presented the activities

Achievements: Most of the session outcomes were achieved and the days' activities went on well without any encumbrance.

Challenges: The sessions were delayed because meals were served late but we managed to finish the days planned session at 6.00 pm.

Tuesday 01/09/20

Morning session

The sessions started with the analysis of the subject syllabus documents and this was with reference to the various subjects' syllabi that had been given to the participants, the sessions were a great success.

There was a clear sign that participants had limited interface with the syllabus documents previously. Many reported having never touched the documents while others had only looked at the documents once. It was a great session for them to conceptualize what was there in.

After break session

In the after break session, sessions 2 and 3 were handled, these were linkage between the syllabus and the learner's book followed by linkage between the learner's book and the teacher's guide.

After lunch session

The 4th session commenced with formative assessment in the revised curriculum which ran up to break time. It was interesting the way participants managed to come to terms with assessment for learning, assessment as learning and assessment of learning. The discussions were harmonized that by the end all participants appreciated the concept of formative assessment and its link to the triangulation through the ball making activity they had done earlier in the session.

This 5th session ended with criterion referenced assessment handled. Participants had a number of engagements with the facilitators during their groups but at the end it was clear they had picked the concept. A scale was made based on the balls they made earlier as they confirmed that the criterion referenced assessment if more ideal in a CBC. Issues for clarity raised in the clouds were addressed to remove any remaining misconceptions.

Achievements

- All sessions were done as planned for the day.
- The participants were eager to learn
- They appreciated the trainers for having grip of the content and pedagogy.

Challenges: Participants found some challenges with the criterion referenced assessments, they asked a number of questions and the facilitators were in position to give relevant and appropriate answers as required.

Wednesday 02/09/2020

The entire day was dedicated to the assessment for learning – formative assessment, filling all the three sessions of the day.

Different aspects of assessment for learning were covered which included the principles and strategies for AfL as well as application of Hattie's research on what impacts on students learning outcomes.

Achievement: All sessions were conducted with proper time management and participants actively participated in the day's session.

Challenges: Some confusion on what constituted formative use of summative assessment on one hand and the assessment of learning on the other hand. This was cleared the following morning during the address of clouds.

Thursday 03/09/2020

Morning session

The day started with a general assembly for the first 30 minutes. The host head teacher addressed on the hygiene, welfare especially for the participants with children, and permission for the election of NRM primaries.

The first session was on assessment for the world of work where the rationale and mode of assessment at S.3 was clarified to the participants. Many observed that the career guidance role was becoming clearer significant in schools.

The second session was End of topic assessment which covered the significance and characteristics of the Activity of Integration.

After break session

The 3rd and 4th sessions were generation of subject/group activities of integration followed by presentation and evaluation of group activities of integration. The products from the groups were formidable, a sign that learning had taken place.

After lunch session

The 5th session was on evaluation and use of evaluation grids in the teacher's guide. For clarity, emphasis was put on the sample assessment grid for the ICT, letter writing activity.

The 6th session was on the development of sample evaluation grids for the activity of integration developed in the session before lunch.

Achievement: Participants managed to develop their own Activity of Integration (AOI) and evaluation grids

Challenge: *Many participants stayed with difficulty in developing the RACE and identification of the bases for evaluation. A remedial session had to be organized the following morning to make more clarifications.*

Friday 04/09/20

Morning session

Participants were taken through a recap, then session 1 of presentation and evaluation of the sample assessment grids. From the comments that were generated, each group was given a chance to improve their Aoi for final display.

Session 2 about reporting learner achievement was conducted where scores were scaled down to three from those obtained in the assessment grid.

After break session

The session 3 on preparation for teaching and designing learning resources and session 4 on developing sample scheme of work were conducted. Participants developed sample schemes of work based on the template with confidence to scheme for their schools. They appreciated the simplicity of the template that was provided by NCDC.

After lunch session

Session 5 involved developing a sample lesson plan and session 6 lesson monitoring tool and delivery and evaluation of mini lessons.

Session 7 involved Preparation of mini lesson

Achievements: Participants ably developed lesson plans following the guiding template by NCDC

Challenge: Many participants had difficulty in getting teaching resources the running CBC lessons. More time was given to them to brain storm and finally solved the issue.

Saturday 05/09/20

Session 1 participants taught lessons in their respective groups and evaluations were done by selected observers.

Session 2, two selected lessons (History and Agriculture) were taught to a set class in the main hall. Observers made their general remarks harmonized by the facilitators.

Session 3, Participants in plenary checked for the level of achievement of the expectations set on the first day and agreed in unison that they had achieved beyond what they had set. They made their evaluation of the entire workshop by each participant filling a short questionnaire and the scores are as below

S/N	Item	Score
1	Level of preparation of training materials	3
2	Clarity in delivery of content by facilitators	3
3	Clarity in responding to queries by facilitators	3
4	Participants competence to deliver CBC	3
5	Participants willingness to be part of the change	3
6	Participants readiness to help other teachers	3
7	Participant satisfaction with the facilitation by NCDC	3
8	Participants satisfaction with the welfare provided	3

In the way forward, participants expressed readiness to deliver the CBC come the school new term. They appreciated the team teaching that was exhibited by the facilitators and pledged to employ the same for big classes they face in schools.

Participants were then set for the closing remarks from the OC, School Head teacher and the RDC who was the chief guest.