

Challenges of achievements in Knowledge Building at Prepa Ibero Puebla, the first three years

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Three Preparatorias started by Universidad Iberoamericana
Puebla

Puebla (August 2007)

Tlaxcala (August 2007)

Veracruz (August 2008)

The pedagogical model takes into account three main
components:

Knowledge Building,

Competence

St. Ignatius' pedagogical paradigm

Knowledge Building at Prepa Ibero Puebla

Four stages - continuous adaptation:

1. January – June 2008
2. August – December 2008
3. January – June 2009
4. August 2009 – June 2010

Main Achievements:

- Some teachers involved in KB work their students and among themselves. They are part of a very dynamic KB community where ideas, practices, successes and failures are freely shared and discussed.
- International Projects: students in the three schools were involved in four international projects with students from Cantaluña, Hong Kong and Norway.

Main Achievements:

- More open environment towards ideas in the whole school, this is particularly clear in the older class where students are more inquisitive. They conceive knowledge differently, are aware of the importance of their own input.
- Concrete knowledge building work within the classes and as a subject: First as a subject in itself, now combined with others.

Challenges:

Teachers

- Turnover: only 5% of the original teachers remain
- Training
- Merely discursive change (Diaz-Barriga 2005) and shutting down
- English proficiency
- Information technology proficiency

Challenges:

Students

- Different educational backgrounds
- Non critical
- Opinions and shallow views
- Low argumentative capacity
- Reluctance to generate original ideas

The mere idea that knowledge is something dynamic and ever changing seems impossible to grasp. When students are rewarded for being quiet and attentive and repeating word by word the *knowledge* that's taught to them, they are not comfortable disagreeing, questioning, saying they don't understand out loud.

Challenges:

Institutional: KB and Competence

- Naïve notion of competence leaves out creativity, criticism and innovation
- Preset standards
- Predictability and uncertainty
- Reasons behind an operational approach

Conclusions

The first three years of Prepa Ibero have been an incredible learning opportunity for most people involved. It's not often you get the chance to start something, to build a brand new project. We know what it means to promote Knowledge Building and why we're willing to take the chance to do it.

References

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