

Platforms for Educational Development at Departments and Faculties

P. Gudmundsson, C Bahtsevani, and E. Carlson,
Department of Health and Society, Malmö University, Sweden

ABSTRACT: In this roundtable-discussion, we will present an on-going faculty-wide educational project with the aim to unite teaching personnel with regards to educational theories, methods and approaches, and how these can be developed to assist teachers as well as students in their scholarly growth. Our basic educational philosophy emanates from the fundamental principles of providing students with opportunities to take active part in learning processes, that knowledge is built through interaction and communication and that theory, practice, reflection and action constitute each other's' conditions for continuous lifelong learning (Jarvis 2010). Further, Biggs and Tang (2007) describe how constructive alignment involves clearly linking learning goals with working practices and examinations in curricula with clear progression within and between programmes. Thereby, the educational platforms will hold the potential to bring about a transparency concerning underlying reasons for the chosen educational approaches at the faculty, thus, enabling educational discussions between colleagues as well as between teachers and students. In other words: What if colleagues and students were encouraged to discuss educational challenges and find out what educational ideas and methods that they have in common?

Project description:

In 2012, the departments at the Faculty of Health and Society at Malmö University started a process of developing educational platforms. To ensure that the content of the Platforms emerged from the teachers' own experience, needs and knowledge, it was considered important that they had advocacy over the working process, for example, by forming working-groups, writing-groups or seminars. The department-specific platforms were then analysed to grasp what the departments had in common, forming an educational platform embracing the faculty's educational profile.

First Results and Future Applications:

During the presentation, we will present and discuss possible outcomes from the process of creating educational platforms as well as the content of the platforms. We will also present our thoughts on how educational platforms can affect scholarship of teaching and learning. We suggest that consensus regarding educational issues could enable a systematic scholarship in teaching by more easily detect and analyse a need of change. By using the platforms, and by discovering desired or needed development, it could facilitate testing new ideas and execute studies in areas of mutual interest.

REFERENCES

- Biggs, J., Tang, C. (2007). *Teaching for Quality Learning at University*. (3rd ed.). Maidenhead. McGraw-Hill. Society for Research into Higher Education and Open University Press.
- Jarvis P. (2010). *Adult education and lifelong learning. Theory and Practice* 4th ed. London and New York: Routledge Falmer.