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The Use of Innovative Strategies in Addressing Challenging Teaching-Learning Situations



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This policy brief outlines the challenges faced by teachers in handling large classes and the need to integrate technology with classroom teaching. Policy recommendations are given in order to help teachers deal with these challenging teaching-learning situations.

One of the major challenges faced by teachers today is the large number of students in a class. This could be due to lack of teachers, classrooms, or facilities. In this setup, both teachers and students encounter problems, and the results are mostly negative (Hermosisima, 2013). While this arrangement is far from ideal and inevitable due to lack of resources, innovations in pedagogy and instruction have been developed to address this problem. Certain strategies have been found to be effective for large classes, including peer/team teaching, *laktay-diwa*, and the use of video clips, energizes, and debates (Reyes & Dumanhug, 2015). Training in the use of these strategies would greatly benefit teacher education students and prepare them for real life challenges that they may encounter in schools when they start their service as teachers. Whereas adjustments need to be made for the lack of certain resources, there is also a need to take advantage of resources that are already available to maximize student learning. Blended learning would be a good strategy to integrate technology with classroom teaching. Additionally, students have expressed openness and positive views toward this method. However, more work need to be done to prepare students for blended learning as research shows



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students' lack of readiness for it (Mancao, Hermosisima, Baclagan, & Aggarao, 2015). Policies that promote innovation in pedagogy and instruction that would allow soon-to-be teachers not only to overcome challenging teaching situations, but also take advantage of technology and modernization are suggested.

Here is a summary of policy recommendations for these issues:

1. Although large classes are inevitable given the lack of resources, TEIs must still be selective with which courses they would allow large classes to be conducted. Pre- and in-service teachers must also be provided with enough training and support that would enable them to manage and teach large classes effectively (Hermosisima, 2013).
2. TEIs must provide adequate facilities that would allow seamless implementation of new teaching approaches. For instance, in carrying out blended learning, it must be made sure that there is strong internet connection and standardized procedures that can serve as guide to both faculty members and students (Mancao et al., 2015).

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