**Dialogic Teaching and Learning**

Dialogic teaching has lately been emphasised in improving the learning experience of our students. Be it from school leaders, education experts or teaching coaches, dialogic teaching is buzzing as a way to promote understanding in the learning process. Dialogic teaching also known as dialogue is more than ‘just talk’. It is a student-centred type of teaching and learning where dialogue between teachers and students are used to express, justify and even question certain topics. Hence, the teachers’ role is crucial in encouraging speaking, thinking and listening. The teacher provides stimulus by asking genuine questions and encouraging students to do the same. A great dialogic teacher sees pupils as partners in the learning process, not just passive recipients of knowledge (Swaffield, 2011).

During this classroom dialogue, the teachers will have access to students’ ideas. By engaging the students in a dialogue, the teachers can elicit and explain ideas, clarify any point and purposes of the lesson, model or demonstrate useful ways of using language to describe their thoughts and also help students to grasp new concepts. Students will also be exposed to others ideas, views and perspectives before reaching their own logical conclusion. They will be able learn that there are reason why people think differently. They will help the students to develop new ideas, curiosity and also reflect on their own and others thinking.

“Dialogic teaching and learning is all about the way that we encourage students to start reflecting on their practice, the way they talk to one another, the way they discuss and it’s a cycle. We give good question to them, they reflect on it, they think about it talk about it and then give us their feedback. That’s how it looks like in a classroom” Mike O Farrel, International Coach in Sekolah Rendah Tanah Jambu.

Classrooms across the country are now applying their dialogic strategies, not just in Mathematics and English but also across all subjects. Cikgu Nur Hanisah binti Muhammad Hanafi from Sekolah Rendah Mudah Hashim, Tutong shared “We have plan to apply dialogic teaching not just English and Mathematics but also in other subjects. There will be a sharing session of dialogic teaching on the proper and quality of questioning, how and what to ask according to students’ capabilities and response. Through dialogue, teachers will also be able to correct any students’ misconception.”

The application of dialogic teaching and learning has bring positive changes especially in students Joanna STPRI stated that “by changing our questioning techniques and response, we see a shift from the teacher dominating classroom talk towards students learning to explore specific topics, debating ideas, and discovering new insights for themselves. In these classes, we have seen students becoming more involved , speaking up more and are able to articulate their thoughts more confidently and in a much more extended and reflective way”

Prepared by:

Public Relations Unit,

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