

Problems and Challenges Faced by Teacher Trainees of National College of Education of Mathematics Course Teaching Science as A Co-Subject.

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Abstract

The science syllabus is a combination of Chemistry, Biology, and Physics. Prospective teachers of the National College of Education Study Science as a Major and co-subject. Teacher trainees of Mathematics course, study science as a co -subject. Approximately 1/3 of Ordinary Level Science syllabi consist of biology. Student teachers of Mathematics course obtained their highest qualification in biology at Ordinary level. A gap is created due to subject knowledge and the teaching of the subject by teachers without enough subject knowledge, pedagogical knowledge and technological knowledge. The concepts related to biology has not been achieved systematically in the students and negative effect on the achievement of other concepts directly and indirectly related to those concepts in the students affects the entire learning process. The nature Specific objects of this study are identifying prior knowledge of the student teachers related to the area of biology, understanding the nature of the curriculum of National college of education related to the co-subject, and how the students' attitudes related to the area of biology affect the teacher's learning and teaching process. A random sample of 54 teacher trainees from Siyane, Nilwala, Pasdunrata and Hatton National Colleges of Education were selected. A motivated sample of 8 lecturers have been selected where the Sinhala medium mathematics course is conducted. A questionnaire was used for students, questionnaire, face to face discussion and deep discussion for lecturers of science. 24% of the students who showed an interest in Biology at the G.E.C.O/L. 92.4% of the people who left the science course and chose the Mathematics course at the G.E.C.A/L. According to lecturers experience a problem is seen in teaching learning process only especially in biology themes. It is suggested that the time allocated for the biology curriculum under the co-subject is not enough and a foundation course is needed for biology themes and the course should be further developed.

Keywords: National College of Education. Teacher trainees, co -subject biology. Science.

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