

Quality Education Fund Project
Quality Assessment of Hong Kong Secondary School Physical Education:
The Use of Self-Evaluation and Performance Indicators

優質教育基金計劃
香港中學體育教學質素評鑑：自我評估與表現指標的應用

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Abstract

Physical Education is devoted to the physical development of the student and like other school subjects is evaluated to ensure that it produces defined outcomes efficiently and effectively. In order to reassure the government and the public of their achievement, physical educators must maintain high standards with regard to planning, delivery and evaluation of their program. To accomplish these aims, teachers in physical education must possess the necessary knowledge and techniques that can be applied to teaching, learning and overall program effectiveness. Therefore, the primary objectives of this project are threefold: (1) To provide in-service physical education teachers with training and support to conduct a self-examination of their programs in accordance with professional standards of practice to determine areas of effectiveness and those requiring improvement. (2) To provide in-service teachers with current educational theory and practice before investing resources to improve program quality and evaluation effectiveness, and (3) To provide a framework for the development of performance indicators to evaluate the Hong Kong physical education program.

摘要

本研究計劃目的為：(1) 透過自我評估方法，讓體育教師有系統及全面地瞭解本身在教學、課程設計及學生學習表現的情況；(2) 提供不同階段的工作坊，以協助教師認識如何應用自我評估方法及表現指標；(3) 透過不同的工作坊，教師將會以科學化的方法檢討本身在體育科所面對的問題。完成是項計劃，參加者可獲得一套「自我評估及表現指標教材套」作為日後參考及應用。

Background

As we enter the new millenium, educators, including those in physical education, will be required to cope with the demands for a knowledge-based education that will fulfill the demands of a modern information society. Recently, the Hong Kong Education Department announced

the development and implementation of a framework for Hong Kong primary and secondary schools that would promote and achieve a high level of quality assurance in education (Quality Assurance in School Education, 1998; Education Blueprint, 1999). The Education Department initiated the Quality Assurance Inspection (QAI) in targeted schools in order to examine how recourses have been

used effectively. Physical education has become one of the eight key learning areas that will require higher levels of accountability to the public and the government. To reflect these demands it will be necessary to develop and establish a systematic quality assessment framework to evaluate existing educational programs including those in physical education (Ha, 2000; Ha, Johns, & Shiu, 2000; Johns & Ha, 1999).

According to Cave et al. (1997), "Performance Indicators" (PIs) have potential as performance measure and offer opportunities for educational institutions to monitor their standards. They further stated that there is scope for developing PIs, related to staff performance, teaching methods, learning environment, student-staff ratio, and value-added considerations. In physical education, self-evaluation studies of the physical education curriculum have already been successfully applied to determine indicators for improvement and changes (DeJong & Albrecht, 1998; Dummer et al, 1993). Such highly effective approaches have been widely applied in the North America, Australia, and Europe (Helm & Boos, 1996; Singh, 1990; Spee & Bormans, 1992; Williams, 1994). However, such models (performance indicators) do not necessarily lend themselves to local conditions and cannot be simply borrowed and applied directly without due consideration of existing social and cultural characteristics. Therefore, in order to make good use of frameworks that are successful in other societies, we must first carefully consider the school culture and prevailing conditions before establishing criteria of performance indicators for physical education in local schools. A prevailing condition with a local characteristic in Hong Kong schools is the resistance to change. Moreover the sensitive nature of evaluation is likely to meet with resistance as teachers perceive the risk of public exposure. Therefore, the introduction of an evaluation system that protects the teachers from public scrutiny while providing valuable feedback that leads to program improvement is required. Therefore, this project is proposed and will be aimed at establishing a team concept that emphasizes consensus-building and cooperation between the theorists and the practitioners. The design will facilitate collaboration for and maintenance of improved quality in teaching and learning in physical education through an effective evaluation system that enhances rather than threatens the teacher's role.

Objectives

The objectives of this project are:

1. To provide in-service physical education teachers with

training and support to conduct a self-examination of their programs in accordance with professional standards of practice to determine areas of effectiveness and those requiring improvement.

2. To provide in-service teachers with current educational theory and practice (including reflective teaching, children's needs and interest, contemporary physical education models, effective student learning and evaluation techniques) that not only respects current reforms proposed by the education commission but will improve program quality and evaluation effectiveness.
3. To provide a framework for the development of performance indicators to evaluate the Hong Kong physical education program.

Targets and expected number of beneficiaries

Sixty-five secondary schools located through out the SAR will be chosen to participate in the project which will be implemented between September 2000 and December 2002. Through this project, it is hoped that the production of the materials can help local physical education teachers to self-evaluate their own programs effectively and upgrade their teaching/learning standard to a desirable level based on the prescribed performance indicators.

Details of the Project

Included in this project will be an in-depth study of school physical education. The focus of the study will be on the following areas:

1. School philosophy / Mission
2. Quality of the physical education curriculum
3. Quality of instruction in physical education classes.
4. Quality of Personnel and staff development.
5. Quality of facilities equipment and safety practices
6. Quality of student learning and assessment methods.

The application of the self-evaluation approach will enable physical educators to develop a clear understanding of the cost effectiveness of their program on the basis of investment, resource utilization and outcomes. After collecting the data from the designated schools, the investigators will analyze the results and will conduct workshops based on the indicated professional needs of the teachers.

All workshops will be tailored to meet the specific

needs of particular schools and will utilize adult learning techniques and experiences to convey the findings. In addition, the workshops will provide opportunity for teachers to take action to improve the quality of physical education in their schools.

Expected deliverables and outcome

With the implementation of the "Quality Assessment of Hong Kong Secondary School Physical Education: The Use of Self-Evaluation Approach and Performance Indicators", it is expected that the project will assist local secondary physical educators to self-evaluate their programs in accordance with professional standards of

practice to determine areas of effectiveness and those requiring improvement. The direct benefit of this deliverable is that teachers will own and operate a self-evaluation program to which they have made an instrumental contribution. Through a series of stimulating workshops, current educational theory and practice for program evaluation in the context of the Hong Kong educational system will be provided for in-service teachers. Accordingly, the contents of the workshops will be designed and published as compact disc or videotapes for wider application. Ultimately, a framework for the development of performance indicators in different formats (booklets, videotapes, and compact disc) will be completed for evaluating the Hong Kong physical education program in future.

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