Value and Virtue in Practice-Based Research

York St John University, UK
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Light shines on teachers situation

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# Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeling</th>
<th>Idea</th>
<th>Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers as a group are getting weaker and weaker</td>
<td>Action research might empower them</td>
<td>Research these ideas of mine and write M Ed thesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felt while working as a primary school teacher 1987-2006 mostly in the later years</td>
<td>Arised at a meeting about action research in spring 2008</td>
<td>Worked on 2008-2010</td>
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Goal

• To try to understand my feelings on teachers situation.

• To find out if and how action research as a method or tool could help teachers out of the situation I felt they were in.

• To analyse my personal values when working with teachers
Self portrait

- In my thesis I draw a picture of my self and my experience


- The frame is built on my experience as a primary school teacher for 19 years, my studies in the university and my work as a project manager in development work with teachers.
Data

• diaries from 2001-2010
• my own school projects from 2006-2009
• research journal from 2008-2010
• my experience and memories
• other data are academic and literary texts that have occurred in my way and I thought rhymed with what I was looking at.
Writing as a research method

- a way to learn about yourself and the matters you are researching

- by recreating your own texts, you can discover other aspects of the topic and the relationship between you and the material changes

- routine models prevent that the writing itself is utilized as an effective and creative process, and the models can prevent that researchers who are starting their career want to write about their research.

  (Richardson, 2005)

Important to write papers that more than academics are willing to read.
The story of light

- appeared to me from my data
- is based equally on theory and experience
- helps me to reproduce my own text and introduce my understanding of things which are obvious to me.
- is a description of what I have discovered when I was analyzing my data.
The journey

The trinity visits:

• The Academia

• Atypical professionals

• Policy-makers

• Lights people

See the handout for more information
End of story

• Brenda's role in the story is to speak their voice that want to get out of the suffocating yoke of tradition.

• The questionmark that cheats its way into the expedition symbols the inevitable questions that constantly are inside me and are pointing out to me that tings may not always be as they appear.

• Light like my self, feels that empowerment is important to her people so they can increase its scope of action and experience a strong impact on their lives.
Conclusion

“Positivism in its top-down standards disguise tears away at the heart and soul of teachers, sapping energy and dedication. Teachers have to be tough and smart to survive this assault on the profession.” (Kincheloe, 2006:15).

Action research can empower teachers and they will be both tough and smart...
References


References


