

Preparing Teachers with Internationalization Consciousness via a Program of Educational Voluntary Service in Sri Lanka

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It is important to prepare the younger generation with an awareness of being a global citizen with international moving ability. In viewing this, preparing pre-service and in-service teachers with international consciousness is the first step. This study implemented a program called “Preparing Teachers within a Global Village” which involved a group of pre- and in-service teachers with educational voluntary service in Sri Lanka. Via collaborative action research and the strategy of World Café, the qualitative data of the program were further analyzed. The results are discussed based on the four facets of internationalization consciousness of voluntary teachers. First, teachers got more aware about the national identity, international literacy, global cooperation and competition, and global responsibility. They also learned that Sri Lankan students’ international consciousness was aroused as well. Furthermore, most teachers recognized and appreciated the sustainability of the program and indicated that would apply some more concrete strategies for the program possible in the future.

Based on the successful practice and a few hidden curricula in the implementation, some suggestions are thoughtfully presented about the volunteer recruitment, the fund raising, the mutual communication, the sustainable management, the resource input, the feedback mechanism, etc. Hopefully, these could be helpful for parties interested in future international voluntary service.

Keywords: international educational volunteers, collaborative action research, civic action approach, internationalization consciousness.

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