Virtual environment as a collaborative platform to enhance pupils’ information literacy skills

Sivagouri Kaliamoorthy

Beacon Primary School, Singapore
Outline of Presentation

• Background – A Glimpse
• Purpose – The Drive
• Theoretical Perspectives – The Frames
• Task Design – The Elements
• Implementation Process – A Cycle
• Findings – Hope & Challenges
• Future Direction – The Journey Ahead
• My Reflection – The Teacher
Background – A Glimpse

Context

• Beacon Primary School, one of the future school in Singapore
• Tamil Language Curriculum leverages on Technology

(B121 programme for Primary Four level)
Purpose – *The Drive*

Explore virtual learning environment as a collaborative platform to enhance information literacy skills for a mixed-ability Primary Four class.
Theoretical Perspectives – The Frames

“Information literacy (is not)... teaching a set of skills but rather a process that should transform both learning and the culture of communities for the better.”

Breivik (2000)

• ICT as constructive tools


• Individual accountability and positive interdependence linked to group rewards or goals

Johnson and Johnson (1991), Kagan (1990) and Slavin (1999)
Task Design – *The Elements*

**Specific Instructional Objective**
To develop pupils information literacy skills through an online collaborative discussion on a newspaper article on tourism

**Key Elements**
- ICT Platform – Pbwikispace
- Selection of Article - National Tamil Newspaper, Tamil Murasu
Implementation Process – A Cycle

Connect

Relate

Construct
Findings - Hope

• Information Exchange
• Knowledge construction and co-construction
• Resourcefulness of using ICT tools (e.g. Search engines, Google translator)
• Positive interdependence and Individual accountability
Findings - Challenges

- Lack of websites in Tamil Language
- Dilemma
- Time
Future Directions – The Journey

Future research could look into recording pupils perspective and their views on using the collaborative platform and their learning.
My Reflection – The Teacher

The design of the task with the selection of the tool had played a critical role in my students learning. Even my less abled pupils through their contributions had given me hope that all pupils can learn given the right environment.

sivagouri.arunasalam@bcps.sg
Sivagouri_kaliamoorthy@moe.edu.sg
References

References

- Teach Less; Learn More- Transforming Learning From Quantity To Quality. Singapore Education Milestones 2004-2005
  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing
- 2010 Mother Tongue Languages Review Committee Executive Summary of Recommendations – Jan 2011
- Tutorial : http://pbworks.com/content/webinars
  http://p4tamilbeacon.pbworks.com/w/browse