

Shaurimoyo Primary School, Time Travel School Inspection

Goal

- Teachers have methods of teaching mathematics in the historic environment
- Pupils have an understanding how school mathematics can be used in the historic environment
- Pupils realize the benefits of basic knowledge in numbers and measurement

Facts

In 1971 Shaurimoyo Primary School opened, seven years after independence, on the grounds that the demand for education to the poor Africans and Kenyans was taking centre stage in the post colonial Kenya. The focus of the institution was to offer primary education to the masses of pupils in Kisumu and its environs.

From the beginning the school was quite small with small classes and at times lessons would be taken under the shady trees. There was a desire to have a high quality in education.

Every school was inspected now and then from the national educational authorities. The school inspectors checked if the education was on an adequate level, the books in order and that the curriculum was followed. The schools seldom knew when the inspector(s) were coming.

Scenario, School Inspection 1972

Shaurimoyo Primary School opened only one year ago and has big ambitions to be a school of excellence and promote quality education in a child friendly environment.

Today there is a rumor that the school is going to be inspected by national and/ or local inspectors. The inspectors seldom give notice in advance, so nobody really knows if they are coming today or another day. And will it be inspection of the whole school or in just one or two subjects? Will there be one inspector or a panel? When they come the inspectors want to check the documents and observe lessons. They can ask questions in the classroom, to understand the teaching situation. They often interview both teachers and pupils to get a full picture of the school. Before they leave, at the end of the day, they will give an oral report and summarize their experiences. A few weeks later the written report will reach the school.

A school inspection is quite nervous for the teachers and the head of the school. What will they say? This is decisive for the future of the school.

The teachers have lessons as always but of course they are well prepared. They want to do a good impression if there will be an inspection.

One of the classes is outside to have a lesson in the school yard in Mathematics, more specific on measurements. This is an alternative way of teaching compared to the classroom. Probably the inspector is quite curious in this way of teaching. Will he/ she find it a good way of teaching and learning?

The teachers start the lesson as planned and the pupils are divided into different activities. Nobody knows if there will be an inspection or not. It is best to be prepared...

Roles

The pupils are the pupils, grade seven, in 1972

The adults are teachers and assistants at school in 1972

School inspector, education officers at the zonal and the district headquarters.

Key Questions

- How and when do I learn in best? Understanding, quality of education (listening, reading, doing, problem solving; in the classroom, outside; at school, at home; relevant themes, motivation, etc)
- In what way is this learning relevant for me? When can I use it?

Problem-solving activities

- The school is new. We need a wire around the schoolyard to make it safe. Material, perimeter, posts, cost..?
- How much water is needed every day for all the 460 pupils in the school?
- Show the distance between different numbers which you meet in your daily life? What do the different numbers represent in your life?
- Plant flowers on the flower beds.
- There is material for a 200 meters fence to protect the field from animals. Structure of the field, distance between the plants? How many plants will be planted around the compound?

Time Plan

15.00 The participants gather in the school yard

Welcome, scenario, rules

15.15 Initiation

Activities start

16.15 School inspector arrives, students' presentation

16.30 Time Travel ends

Evaluation

17.00 End

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