Teaching in the twenty-first century: why teaching matters and how it can matter more

Professor Chris Husbands, Director, Institute of Education

How the world’s best-performing school systems come out on top

September 2007

“The best school systems ... have the best teachers. Countries and regions such as Finland, Singapore, South Korea, Ontario ... recruit teachers from the top echelon of graduates each year, pay them well and create and maintain a culture of inclusion and quality throughout teachers’ careers that imbues the whole school system.”

“What is the most important school-related factor in student learning? The answer is teaching”

Bob Schwartz, Harvard GSE, 2010
“Life isn’t fair, but good teaching and good schools are the best means we have of overcoming disadvantage and opening the doors of opportunity for young people”

Stephen Dinham, Melbourne University 2012
The impact of good teaching

Sanders and Rivers, 2002
...appears to persist

Chetty, Friedman and Rockoff, 2012
practices matter

teacher effects exceed school effects

no other in-school factor is as significant

Nye, Konstantopoulos, and Hedges, 2004
Creating the conditions for great teaching
Purpose
SAVING CHILDREN'S LIVES
A higher level of education reduces preventable child deaths

Number of children under 5 that died in low and lower middle income countries in 2012: 5.7 million

- Reduction in deaths in low and lower middle income countries:
  - 15% fewer child deaths
  - Saving 0.9 million lives

- If all women had primary education:
  - 15% fewer child deaths
  - Saving 0.9 million lives

- If all women had secondary education:
  - 49% fewer child deaths
  - Saving 2.8 million lives
Recognition

Good job !!!
Pupil/teacher ratio and pupil/trained teacher ratio, primary education, countries where the pupil/trained teacher ratio exceeds the pupil/teacher ratio by at least 10:1, 2011
Percentage of children of primary school age who reached grade 4 and achieved minimum learning standard in reading, by region

- **World**
- **North America and Western Europe**
- **Central and Eastern Europe**
- **Central Asia**
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**
- **East Asia and the Pacific**
- **Arab States**
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **South and West Asia**

**Legend:**
- Orange: Reached grade 4 and learned the basics
- Purple: Reached grade 4 but did not learn the basics
- Pink: Did not reach grade 4
Attract the best into teaching...

....ensure that teachers work where they are most needed....

....improve teacher education to that all are able to teach well....

...retain the teachers you recruit through reward and incentives
Growth
Total number of teachers needed to achieve universal primary education by 2015

- Replacement for attrition: 3.7
- Additional teachers needed: 1.6
- All other: 0.7

Sub-Saharan Africa: 0.9

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Imagine a school in which you taught better simply by virtue of teaching in that school. What would such a school be like?
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