A Closer Look on Team Teaching

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There is a growing interest in collaboration amongst teachers at all levels. One of the most intensive collaborative experiences is “team teaching” a course with one or more colleagues. Though in reality, team teaching may not be always possible for most schools in the public have just enough teachers to handle all the grade levels, still, in one way or another, making it possible even for some time will have its own benefits.

In Romania, Ulrich and Nedelcu (2013) conducted a case study entitled “Team Teaching and Teamwork: Perceptions amongst Students and Staff.” Their paper presented the case of a team teaching experience at the Training of Trainers master degree program at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Bucharest. The case reflects the experience gained by the two authors over the last three years in carrying out a joint teaching effort.

Based on team teaching, the Building and Leading Teams course was interlinked with Training Practice course, during the second study year. As part of the teaching and research assignments, the students have systematically investigated different kinds of teams in various companies, organizations and institutions. Besides carrying on case studies outside the University environment, students have worked in designated teams and had to critically analyze their own team’s dynamics. Students developed monitoring, evaluation and reflection instruments to reflect on the issues, processes and critical elements of teams’ dynamics and effectiveness. Grounded on case studies, students’ teams designed and delivered training sessions in order to improve the teams they studied as cases or to replicate positive experiences they have investigated. (http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Luckily, in our country, US Peace Corps graces different public elementary and secondary schools to have a partnership with. Considering that the use of English as a second language is important to achieve globally competitive skills, a realization for teachers to have an exchange of knowledge and skills in teaching English is made possible. Definitely, more heads are better than one. And based on what I have observed in some schools which I was able to handle, (Colo Elem. School and San Ramon Elem. School,) teachers were able to improve instruction and it was seen based on pupils’ performance during the evaluation.