
1990 BERA Conference

Reports on Symposia

Symposiums: TVEI and School Effectiveness

Two papers were presented at this symposium:

1. The Stability of School Effectiveness Indicators
(Peter Tymms and Carol Fitz-Gibbon,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne)

The paper considered the extent to which it is possible to measure departmental effectiveness reliably, both in the cognitive and affective domains. Data from the A-Level Information System (ALIS) was also examined to see if departments were stable in their effects over time and to see if apparently 'good' departments tended to cluster within schools.

It was generally concluded that it is possible to measure school effectiveness with confidence, provided that a sufficient sample of pupils is available. A sample of about 12+ is needed for examination data and a considerably larger sample for attitude indicators. There was some tendency for departments to maintain their performance over time.

However, the notion of 'good' and 'bad' schools was challenged in the light of data which showed low correlations between departmental effectiveness indicators in the same school.

2. The effectiveness of the TVEI Pilot facilitating Curriculum Change
(Neil Straker, University of Newcastle upon Tyne)

This provided an analysis of the effectiveness of the TVEI pilot as a vehicle for curriculum change. The initiative was set in its educational and political context. The 'cohort' requirement of TVEI was discussed in relation to the evolution of the pilot scheme in schools and colleges. Ways in which the TVEI pilot funding was used to facilitate change were identified and the final section of the paper focussed on a number of unresolved issues: 14-16 progression, TVEI and the National Curriculum, staff development, and evaluation.

Final versions of both papers will be available in the near future. Please contact

Ros Armstrong,
CEM Secretary,
School of Education,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
St. Thomas Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.