



# Partner Schools Global Network

**SCHOOLS NOW! CONFERENCE**  
28 February - 1 March,  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Action Research &  
Professional Development**



# The School Principal as Leader



- Shapes a vision of academic success for all students
- Cultivates leadership in others
- How?
- By building the quality of instruction

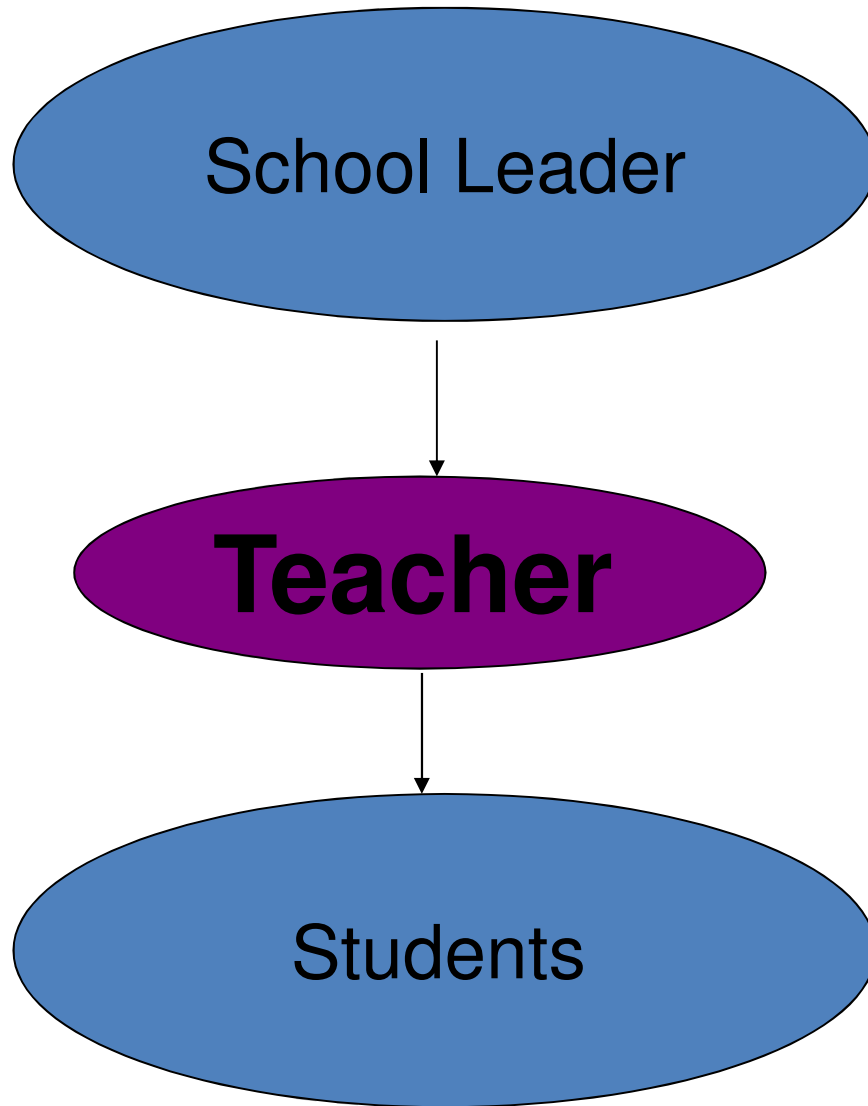
# Students

- What do we want students to do in order to succeed?

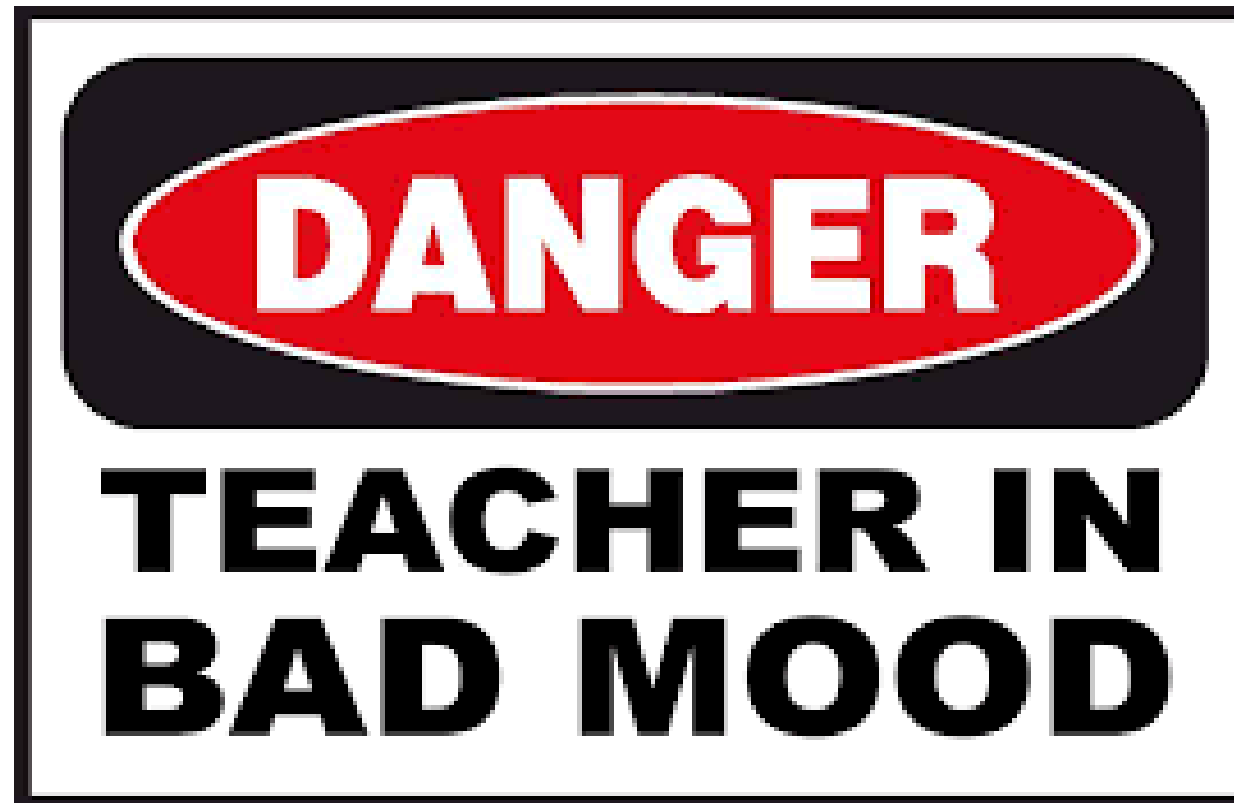
*Think hard, Reflect, Own their own learning*

*Be happy in doing that, Celebrate success*

- Effective principals ensure that their schools allow and children to put learning at the center of their daily activities.



What about teachers?



What about teachers?

Who allows teachers to put learning at the centre of their daily activities?

# Teachers

- Professional Development

To help them solve classroom problems that they face when they are all ALONE in the classroom

# Action Research

- What is action research?
- A process of inquiry conducted by and for those taking the action
- Why?
- to assist the “actor” in improving and/or refining his or her actions.



# simply

- The process of reflecting on **your own** practice rather than others carrying out research for you. (insider vs. outsider)
- Inquiry in the aim of improvement
- acting, observing, reflecting, understanding,

# How?

- Identify a problem

- Collect data:

to understand the problem; have more perspective; to find patterns

- Research for alternatives and apply
- Write a narrative of your experience
- Share

# Who is a great teacher?

- Experiments
- Enquires and thinks hard
- Plans and be responsible
- Looks for alternatives
- Finds solutions
- Celebrates success
- Shares success with others

ما حك جلدك مثل ظفرك فتول انت جميع امرك.

- Literal translation: Nobody can scratch your itchy skin the way you can.
- Figurative meaning: Nobody can understand your situation or solve your own problem like you do.

# So, what should school leaders do?

1- Instead of giving solutions and suggestions to teachers, introduce them to action research.

2- Remind teachers that

- If you keep doing the same thing, you will keep getting the same results.
- Look for alternatives outside your head.
- Consult the vast literature on education, academic journals, magazines, or books.
- Keep trying until you find what works for you.

# Tell them that....

- It's your classroom.
- It is you who has to decide what works in your classroom.

# Rationale

- Each educational situation is different from the other.
- The factors are never the same.
- Teachers are not the same.
- Students are definitely not the same.
- Teachers should know best what works for them and for their classrooms.

# Teacher as Researcher

- Reflects on own practice
- Looks for alternatives
- Solves own classroom problems
- Celebrates success
- Expert teachers vs experienced teachers
- Shares experience

Teachers own their own professional  
development



# Benifits

- A recipe for teachers' professional development
- More powerful teachers
- A sustainable development plan
- More realistic than other plans
- Less costly
- Life long development

# Teachers and Students

- The question is:

How can teachers help students think hard, reflect, engage, be creative and celebrate learning if teachers themselves do not do any of those.

practice what you preach

# resources

- <http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/100047/chapters/What-Is-Action-Research%C2%A2.aspx>