

Alternative Teacher Training Strategies: the case of South Africa

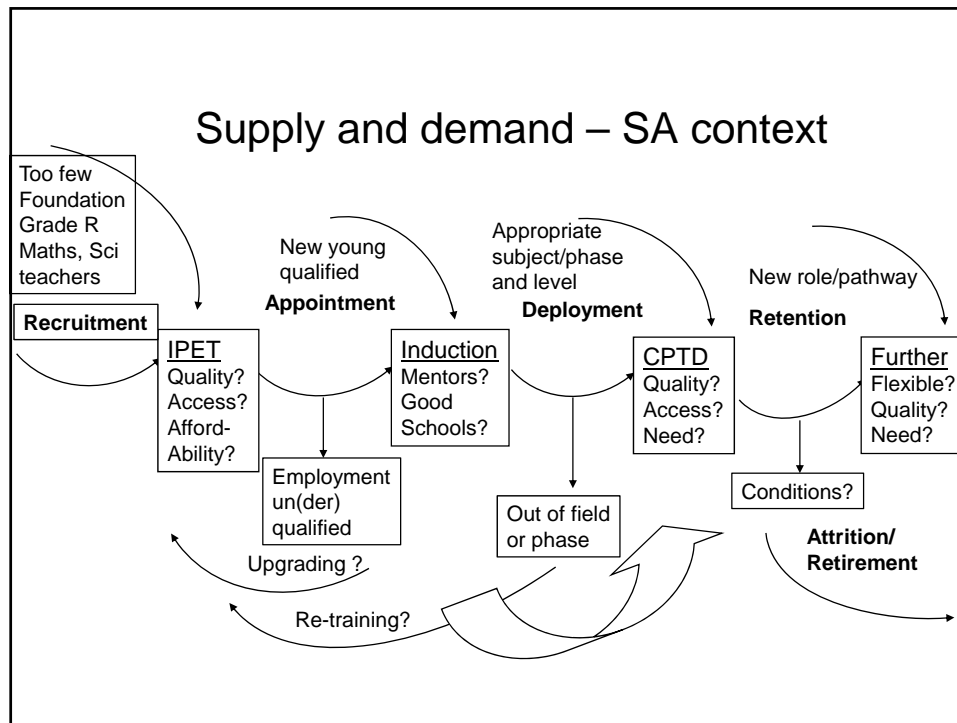
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Commitment

Recent Teacher Development Summit in SA

Amongst other decisions:

- *That a new, strengthened, integrated national plan for teacher development be developed.*
- *Urgent attention must be given to*
 - *the opening of colleges ...*
 - *alternative models for strengthening the institutional capacity of the system as a whole.*



Implications for alternative teacher training in SA context

1. Find solutions that move the system forward, rather than pursuing qualifications that research indicates don't improve classroom practice
2. Cooperation and collaboration key – not just colleges/universities for pre-set and the department for in-set, but HEIs, schools and the Department
3. Avoid trying to use teacher development to solve systems management problems

Examples of policy management decisions

- If unqualified persons are employed, don't call them 'teachers', and insist on simultaneous enrolment in initial training.
- For professionally qualified teachers with outdated teaching qualifications, deal with remuneration issues separately from teacher development.
- Improve the information management system so that subject/level specialisation is captured with qualification status.

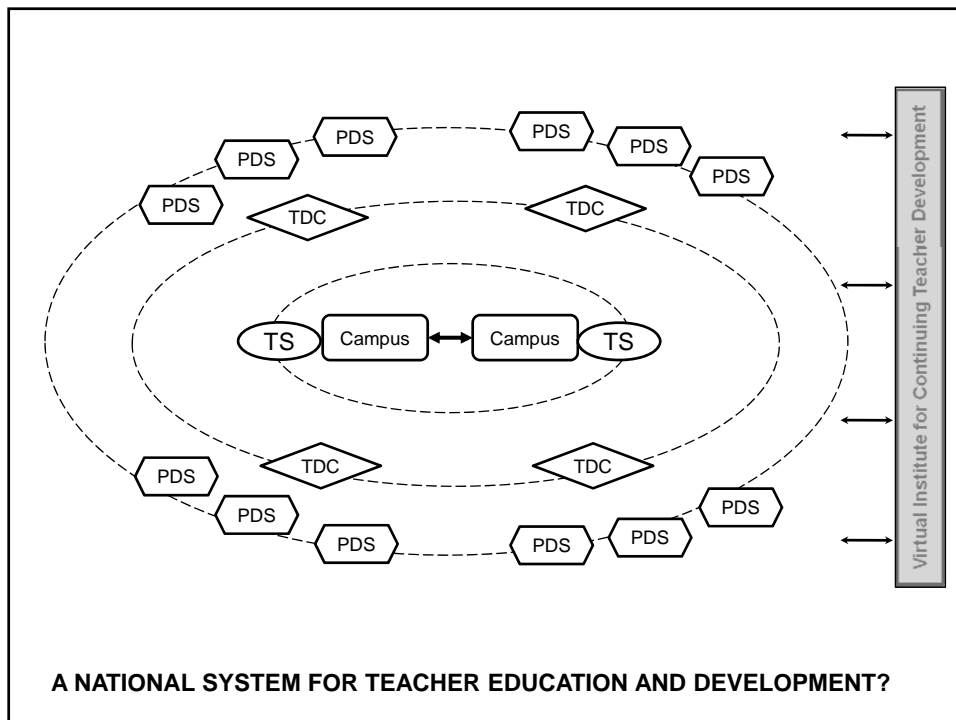
Solution (?): Focus on teacher development (CPTD)

A set of courses to equip teachers with competence for the new curriculum

- Based on detailed analysis of what knowledge and skills teachers require to teach the SA curriculum
- Collaboratively developed and released as OER
- Delivered through districts and/or HEIs and/or NGOs in school-based contexts or incorporated into initial professional education programmes
- Online availability – of materials, of courses, but also of assessment

Solution (?): Strengthen the system

- For effective school-based teaching practice in initial training
- For induction and mentoring
- For improved access and reach into local communities
- For cooperative provision of initial, continuing and further teacher development

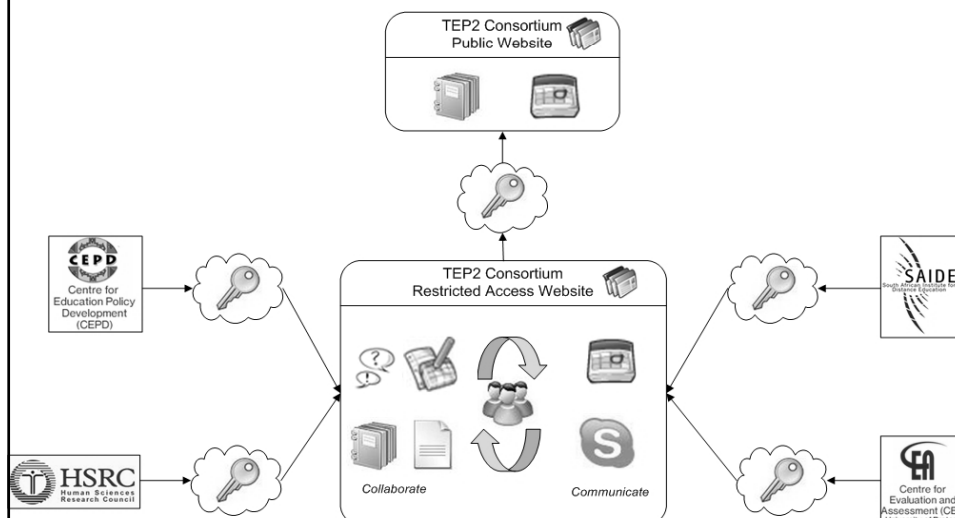


'Virtual' ways of managing course development work



Google Sites – using Google Sites and other Web 2.0 applications from Google and other third-parties, members can easily create and manage a public and restricted access website. Secure group wikis can be created and managed to enable members to easily and quickly edit both the public and restricted access websites.

Cloud computing



Establish communities of practice
for course development on
existing platform

For example

www.oerafrica.org

New? Alternative?



There is nothing new under the sun but there are lots of old
things we don't know.

Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*