

OPTION 1: Language & Multilingualism

Multilingualism is growing as a reality for more children and becoming increasingly important as a requirement for future employment in a globalized economy. In addition, there are greater numbers of students learning in 2nd and 3rd languages, so teachers need new language teaching skills even if they are not teaching languages. This two-sided challenge provides for a variety of opportunities for research and development of projects that could begin to address the lack of knowledge or skills in these areas.

Potential Questions or Approaches for Research and a School Context Analysis

1. What does the research say about the benefits of multilingualism for students during their academic life as well as their working career? How can this research be turned into school policy and programs to provide these opportunities to our students? Use a particular school context as the focus for your work.
2. What are the percentages (worldwide/countrywide?) of students who are studying in languages other than their mother tongue? What are the recognized challenges to the education of these students and how are teachers being trained to work with them (if at all). Investigate what one school is doing to look after its second language learners and provide an action plan suggesting how and why this needs to be improved.
3. Review the literature on mother-tongue support and its importance for student academic achievement. Select a school which is doing a mother tongue program and do an intensive case study of how they have it organized. Consider whether you believe they are doing a satisfactory job or not and explain why. Then provide an action plan for how this might be improved. Note: some schools are doing an excellent job but any situation can always be better. You can say a program is great but could be improved by changes you propose.

Additional Resources:

[Odoyo Okal, B., Benefits of Multilingualism in Education \(2014\) Universal Journal of Educational Research 2\(3\): 223-229](#)

[UNESCO \(2014\) Multilingual education: Why is it important? How to implement it? _ Global Languages Initiative; Benefits of Multilingualism _](#)

OPTION 2: International Mindedness

It is clear that globalization has had an impact on education in many schools and countries – more in some than others. Globalization has provided wonderful challenges as well as diverse issues for schools and this topic alone is of significant importance for schools – how are they taking advantage of the benefits and managing the challenges? This topic has been covered in previous units. However, one particular aspect that could and should be more deeply developed, is the issue of how international minded any school should make its curriculum – maintaining respect for local culture while having a broader and global understanding.

Potential Questions or Approaches for Research and a School Context Analysis

1. What does the research say about the challenges and opportunities of globalization for schools?
2. What is your current school doing to show awareness of the challenges of globalization? What is it doing to prepare students' global competencies and international mindedness? Where is it falling short of potential? Provide an action plan for how the school could improve this with specific references to:
 - curriculum developments in all subject areas
 - co/extra-curricula activities that support international mindedness
 - developing awareness among staff of these as important issues to be incorporated into the educational program in an on-going way.
3. Review the literature on international mindedness and developing global competencies. Select a school which has an excellent program for developing global competencies and international mindedness, and do an intensive case study of how they have it organized. Consider whether you believe they are doing a satisfactory job or not and explain why. Then provide an action plan for how this might be improved. Note: some schools are doing an excellent job but any situation can always be better. You can say a program is great but could be improved by changes you propose.

Resources:

All Module 12 and Module 13 resources.

OPTION 3: Self-Defined Project

The courses on globalization and international mindedness have raised many questions and given them all some discussion. Some of them may be of more specific interest or relevance to a particular individual or school context. Therefore the choice of some individual research into an area of specific value to an individual and/or school is considered an important opportunity that should not be missed.

Potential Questions or Approaches for Research and a School Context Analysis

Define your own research questions or approaches specific to your topic and school context. Preview examples from the other projects for an idea of scope.

Resources:

All Module 12 and Module 13 resources.