Investigating Individual Growth and Change as a Result of International Professional Learning in Pakistani Higher Education

by Fox, Kim & Mehdi

Abstract:

In the context of a rapidly changing world landscape, universities in the United States and abroad are internationalizing their curricula and engaging in faculty and student international exchanges. Because professors are the ones who are largely responsible for translating and implementing global perspectives to the local university, it is important to understand how those participating in international experiences might be influenced and come to transfer new knowledge post-project. Using a phenomenological approach to capture the voices of faculty, this study explored how three professors at a private university in Pakistan experienced internationalization during a three-year funded project. Richly nuanced data share professors' responses upon return to Pakistan, presenting a window into individual experiences and their "transadaption" of global thinking to the local.

Rebecca K. Fox, Ph.D., is an active researcher with over 40 years of experience in education, international teaching, and teacher learning. As Professor of Education at George Mason University, she teaches courses in international education, teaching and teacher education, and second language acquisition research. In addition to her teaching and administrative roles at the university, she is an active researcher with over 100 publications, a coauthored book and one in progress, and over 200 scholarly presentations and workshops conducted nationally and internationally. Her areas of research focus on educator professional development, critical reflection, and second language acquisition research. She emphasizes the role of power, equity, and social justice throughout her work. She has led multiple international grants and teacher professional development programs in international settings. She currently serves as Director of the Division of Advanced Professional Teacher Development & International Education in the College of Education and Human Development.

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