

# EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION FIJI CASE STUDY



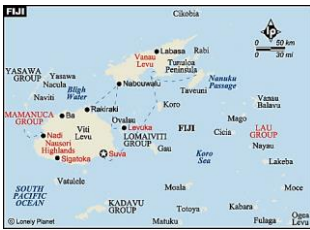
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## About Fiji



- 300+ islands
- Population 837, 271 (2007)
- Fijian population: 56% iTaukei, 37% Indo-Fijian
- 1874 Ceded to GB
- 1970 Independence
- Political crisis 1987, 2000, 2006 to-date



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## Education in Fiji

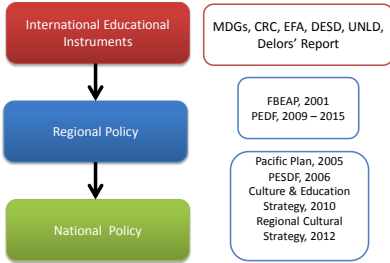
- Education in the Colonies 1874 – 1970
- Education Commissions 1909, 1926, 1969, 2000
- 2005 Education Summit
- History of 'content-full', 'examination-driven' education system
- Five national examinations now abolished with one primary exit exam (yr 8) and two secondary exit exams (yr 12 and yr 13)
- Fiji Education Sector Programme in partnership with AusAid 2003 – 2008
- Adoption of Outcomes-based Education (OBE)
- New Internal Assessment (IA)
- Introduction of Assessment of and for learning (AFL/AoL)
- National Curriculum Framework, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2013



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### Policy Context




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### National Policy

Acts	
1. Education Act, 1978	3. Fiji Teachers Registration Promulgation Act, 2008
2. Examination Act, 1978	4. Volatile Substance & Abuse Act (draft)
Policies	
1. Policy on policies of the Ministry of Education	14. Policy on Child Protection
2. Professional Development	15. Community use of government school grounds
3. Study/Training Leave	16. Early Childhood Education
4. National Management of HIV and AIDS at the Ministry of Education Fiji Schools	17. Effective Implementation of Inclusive Education in Fiji
5. Customer Service	18. Establishment and Recognition of Registration of Schools
6. Drugs and Substance Abuse	19. National Curriculum Assessment and Reporting
7. Enterprise Education	20. School Information Management System
8. External Exams and Assessment	21. School Excursions
9. FPSIS Policy	22. School Zoning
10. Grants Distribution	23. Research Policy
11. National Sports Policy	
12. OHS Policy	
13. Behaviour Management in Schools	
Resource Guides	
1. A Guide to school planning	
2. A guide to school review	
3. A guide to self-assessment in standards monitoring in schools	

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### Policy treatment of pedagogy

- **FBEAP 2001:** 'teaching methods & learning styles' (areas of concern p.5).
- **PEDF 2009 – 2015:** encourages 'Pacific pedagogies'
- **Fiji Policy on Professional Development 2011:**
  1. Requirement of 20 PD hours/yr. to qualify for renewal of licenses issues by Fiji Teachers' Registration Board (FTRB)
  2. PD needs to be mapped out at the school level and strategies to meeting these needs identified
- **Fiji Guide to School Planning 2013:**
  1. 2 – 3 year school plans mapping school needs
  2. Classroom planning, student centered learning, individual lg. needs, evidence-based 'best' tg – lg practice.

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## Research Aim & Objectives

**Research Aim:**

To undertake an assessment of the predominant pedagogical approaches adhered to in Fiji.

**Research Objectives:**

- Identify and critically analyze diverse features of pedagogical approaches in Fiji and harness lessons learnt;
- Identify, based on evidence, examples of innovations within existing pedagogical approaches which can inform future educational practices in view of changing learning requirements;
- Formulate policy recommendations for the development of pedagogical approaches that respond to the changing learning requirements in Fiji,

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## Research Questions

1. What are the pedagogical approaches used in Fiji schools?
2. Do existing pedagogical approaches feature any innovative practices that are proven to be affective for learning? What are the practices and in what ways they are considered (in)effective?
3. What is the current understanding of the changing learning environment in Fiji? And, what are the features of future pedagogical approaches that respond to this changing learning environment?
4. What is the current policy treatment of quality education and the role of pedagogy within this understanding?
5. How can education policies, related to the improvement of quality education, be implemented both at the national and institutional levels?

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## Research Methodology

- Mixed-methods approach
- Theoretical Paradigm: Interpretivism
- Underlying assumption: teachers' prior knowledge (epistemology) and personal philosophies of teaching (philosophy) inform pedagogical practice (pedagogy)
- Contextual understanding of tg. – lg. in the 'world' of the Fijian school/cl.rm.

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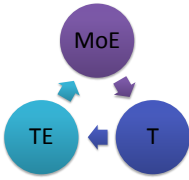
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### Sample



- 10 Ministry of Education Officials
- 10 Teacher Educators
- 30 Primary School Teachers
- 50 Secondary School Teachers

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### Methods

- Use of a research team (non-obtrusive sch.obs)
- Document/Policy Analysis
- Questionnaires (a) Teachers; (b) MoE; (c) TE's
- Classroom Observations
- Talanoa

### Analysis

- Mixed-methods
- Numeric data analyzed, coded, tabulated, graphically represented
- Narrative data assessed using Hycner's Explication Process (1999)

### Ethics

- Application for Research Permit
- USP Human Research Ethics Guidelines
- Research Team Prep.
- Informed Consent

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### Demographics

#### Education Officers/Policy Makers

Age	
40-49	2
50+	4
Gender	
Male	3
Female	3
Designation	
Primary Education	1
Maths Education	1
Curriculum Policy & Planning	2
Health Promoting Schools	1
Teacher Registration	1
Number of years in this position	
Less than a year	1
1-4 years	5
Highest level of education	
Bachelors Degree	1
Masters in Education	3
Master of Science	1
Master of Arts in Education	1
Masters in Governance	1

#### Teacher Educators

Age	
30-39	2
40-49	2
50+	3
Gender	
Male	4
Female	3
Number of years as a teacher educator	
1-4 years	4
5-12 years	1
13+ years	2
Highest level of education	
Masters in Education	4
PhD	3

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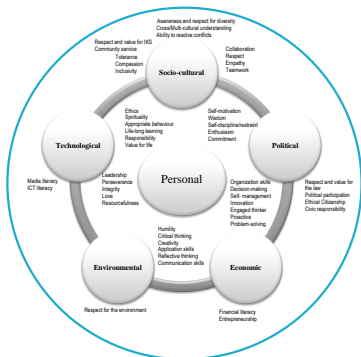








Dimensions of Future-education in Fiji




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### Recommendations

1. Increased involvement of trs in policy review & planning
2. Policy awareness & training on implementation
3. Need for further research
4. Education Summit – cross/multi-sectoral consultation
5. Improved T.Ed and TT
6. Ongoing PD opportunities
7. Resources, space & technology
8. Tr. Workloads & incentives
9. Review of IA
10. Reduction of content

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### Towards Sustainable futures-thinking education ...

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