

## Teachers Perspectives Shared in Colombia EduQuality Workshops

Throughout the workshops the EduQuality team collected and discussed a wide range of teacher perspectives around the key question **‘What have you felt, thought and learned about your role as a teacher during the pandemic?’**

- **Global Pandemic:** “The most interesting thing that I have learned is that these problems are opportunities to use the tools we have and to open ourselves to lifelong learning. Experience will always be an important reference to teach.”
- **Online Learning:** “Students have had many concerns and teaching virtually is more difficult due to both external distractions and poor internet connections.”
- **Students Needs:** “The students have been affected emotionally, that is why the time we dedicate to listening to them is important.”
- **Communication with Families:** “I have felt the need to understand each student's family environment since the pandemic forced us to enter the space of their homes.”
- **Teaching Strategies:** “I have learned to reinvent myself, to be resilient, to have empathy, to be more supportive, to discover skills and talents that I did not know about myself.”
- **My Role as a Teacher:** “Teachers must break down barriers, we must not be afraid of change, that it will drive us to excellence!”

### The Global Pandemic

- I felt puzzled and somewhat frustrated at the beginning, because the whole situation took an unexpected turn, forcing us to look for alternative teaching measures, different from those that were already knew.
- I felt impotence at the beginning of the pandemic, due to not having direct contact with the students. Right now, I feel hope for the new normal.
- The most interesting thing that I have learned is that these problems are opportunities to use the tools we have and to open ourselves to lifelong learning. Experience will always be an important reference to teach.

### Online Learning

- I have felt tired, stressed and on many occasions very sad due to the lack of interest shown by many students during virtual classes.
- Students have had many concerns and teaching virtually is more difficult due to both external distractions and poor internet connections.
- When it all started it was complicated by the fact that we had to work a lot of overtime, up to 18 out of 24 hours. We have overcome these difficulties and adapted.
- There are many challenges both in the virtual mode and in the hybrid mode that require us to be doubly prepared.
- The use of ICT is very important, we must always be up to date. We need to be innovative in our daily work, which is our job as teachers.

### **Students Needs**

- The students have been affected emotionally, that is why the time we dedicate to listening to them is important.
- We have thought about how our students develop autonomy and how parents also play a vital role in supporting our work. Many parents bonded with their children by being immersed in their school life and providing tools and support to them.
- It is a great honor to be transformers of dreams and to be part of educating people for a better society.

### **Communication with families**

- I have felt the gratitude of children's parents for the way we have collaborated at this time.
- I have felt the need to understand each student's family environment since the pandemic forced us to enter the space of their homes.
- I have felt powerless at times on how to pass on knowledge and make students learn effectively and make parents more involved with their children.
- I have thought about strengthening communication with parents, students, teachers to improve the academic and coexistence process of the students.
- In this time of pandemic, we were an unconditional support for all the families in our program.

### **Teaching Strategies**

- I feel that I have been a guide and a support for my students. I have also felt the encouragement or enthusiasm to continue looking for tools to create dynamic classes that awaken the interest of the students.
- These days have been filled with learning and challenges, which have allowed us to recognize the skills and aspects that perhaps we did not know we had.
- I have thought about innovating, creating, and building new pedagogical tools and experiences that allow the further development of children.
- I have learned to reinvent myself, to be resilient, to have empathy, to be more supportive, to discover skills and talents that I did not know about myself.
- We learned to put ourselves in the place of the students and their parents. We have learned to handle different digital tools and strategies that we did not know before.

### **My role as a teacher**

- I felt very sad at not being able to be in the classrooms with our children.
- From my role as a teacher, I have felt courage and leadership to face the different difficulties that arose during these times.
- What I have thought from my role as a teacher is to feel more empathy for our peers because this has not been easy at all.
- Teachers must break down barriers, we must not be afraid of change, that it will drive us to excellence!