

What shapes teachers, and how does this impact teaching?



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Teacher cognition (TC)

Borg (2003):

What teachers **think, know** and **believe** and how it is related to what teachers **do** in the classroom.





Characteristics of Teacher Cognition


- Influenced heavily by **experience as student**.
- All new information & experience is passed through filter of teacher cognition.
- Deep-rooted & does not change easily.
- Has a long-term influence on teaching.
- Is not always seen in teaching.
- Influences experience and is influenced by it.

(Phipps & Borg, 2007)



Stages in a teacher's career



1. Survival phase: teachers focus on self.
 2. Stabilisation Phase: teachers focus moves from self to students.
 3. Phase of Experimentation & diversification: experiments with methods & texts.
 4. Phase of Serenity: self-acceptance & less concerned with others' perception.
 5. Phase of conservatism: resistance to change & reform and disengagement.
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Features of stages

Stages are not linear.
There is no age bias.
Context & professional environment influence stages.
Personal life plays a role.

Relevance of stages

Stages influence TC – understanding this may help teachers know themselves.
Helps understand teacher attitudes during various stages.
May help school leaders to motivate teachers.
Has impact on teaching.

Impact on teaching

1. TC influences how teachers view students, their own teaching approach & expectations of students.
2. School culture & environment influence TC positively or negatively & teaching benefits or suffers accordingly.
3. Teachers gain most knowledge from teaching. Negative or positive experience impact teaching & professional development.
4. TC & teacher practical professional experience shape stages in teachers' careers positively or negatively.





Thank you for your time!