

**Science teaching in a ninth grade classroom by two prospective teachers**

S Karunaratne\*

*Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya*

Science teaching at all levels in the school system needs to be focused on conceptual understanding and scientific inquiry. The aim of this study was to learn how two prospective teachers learn to teach and practise in a science classroom. Two selected prospective teachers followed a course in science teaching where they had to learn different styles of teaching that influence learning. It was a requirement for them to teach in a science classroom to develop skills in teaching. For fifteen weeks, they followed the course and at the same time, they were responsible for teaching science and technology subject for students in the ninth grade in a secondary school. After observing science teaching by the teacher in-charge, for their teaching they developed lesson plans to achieve the objectives given in the teacher guide by introducing hands-on activities using things available from the environment. In their planning they used different techniques that they learned in the course. In all the lessons they did continuous assessments and provided feedback to students. Classroom observations were made and on collected copies of students' assignments and crafts. As there was a variation in the method of teaching, students loved to be in their classroom to perform different tasks assigned by the two prospective teachers. Students were able to construct meanings for what they did in the classroom. The two teachers shared their experience, both strengths and weaknesses, in the theory course, where they were able to get reflections from peers and the instructor. Teaching and learning in a context where there is ownership for teaching and learning, both teachers and learners are benefited to gain conceptual understanding. It is recommended that in staff development programmes, teachers should be allowed to come up with their own suggestions and to let them try to receive constructive feedback for professional development.

\*sunrank@yahoo.com

Tel: 081-2394683