# From College to K-12 Real Quick: The Lived Experiences of Teachers in the Changing Environment

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## ABSTRACT

This study focused on the lived experiences of teachers in the changing teaching environment. The comprehension of these 35-55 years old teachers was further explored to address the changes occurred when they handled the senior high school students. The purpose of this study is to let other professors, the students, the parents, and also the future researchers to widen their understanding of the newly implemented curriculum in our country. Also, this will help the students to be a better person, to develop their attitudes. The educators will help the students to develop their skills and abilities so that when they graduate, they will be prepared in college. The researchers have utilized Interpretive Phenomenology Analysis (IPA) as the research was qualitative, it was needed to interview one-by-one. The researchers used the aide-memoire as guide questions to ask professors for them to answer their lived experiences in the changing teaching environment. Also, it employed purposive sampling in an approach to address the lived experiences of teachers in the new changing teaching environment. The study's final findings and conclusions resulted in confirmation of how professors lived in the new teaching environment. Considering the techniques on how to handle the students' behavior, the adjustments they made, the changes that occurred in their salary, lastly, the advantages and the challenges of implementing this new curriculum in our country. Moreover, the study also acknowledged the co-researchers desire to help the new set of students to overcome the new curriculum. With all the data and information gathered, the researchers were able to identify the lived experiences of teachers in the new teaching environment and were able to identify certain recommendations for practice and further research

### Keywords

Adjustment, K-12 curriculum, lived experiences, teaching environment

## Introduction

College is one of the most difficult years of our life. Here we experience the ups and downs and how we deal with the struggles or the problems that we face every single day. According to Zambrano (2013), all through the majority of the 21st century, a high school diploma is not enough to get an occupation. Many organizations have their preparation programs and make use of their specialists for a long time. In light of changes in the worldwide occupation showcase, bosses are searching for contracts that come completely prepared in the calling. Occupations are changing always and top employments quite a while from now don't exist yet. A school training will help you meet these harder employment's essentials.You will not just have more occupation choices once you get your degree, you now additionally have numerous choices of how you need to acquire your degree. Schools and colleges have turned out to be exceptionally adaptable in their projects, offering on the web classes, semi-online classes, night and end of the week classes, and conventional classes. Meanwhile, if there are positive effects in going to college, of course, there will be a contrast in terms of these.

The problem is how they should cope or manage their new sets of students which is the senior high school. This study will indicate how they could survive with their new teaching environment and what techniques they should be using because they are not used to this kind of teaching for many years. They should be careful about the use of their words because it will have a big impact on the students. Professors should teach them how to deal with life because college is

one of the hardest parts of adulthood. Technology is now common in our world. That is why the professors nowadays are used to it. This is one of the examples that professors can give to their students because teens or students are much likely into it. It is also a very useful technique to keep students motivated and to their school works because there is a touch of technology. Also, there is this technique where a variety of free web-based learning instruments are accessible in which educators can use to support engagement, interest and a feeling of fun into the classroom. Professors can make an intelligent and dynamic classroom environment, for instance, online tests to test understudy's information (Santos, 2013).

The motivation for doing this study is to help senior high school teachers widen their understandings about the newly implemented curriculum in our country. So, the future senior high school teachers will have an overview or perspective on how to handle senior high school students effectively. With this, they could learn how to adjust or manage their students. Similarly to the students who will have insights about their new environment on how they should behave accordingly and what values they should possess regarding the K-12 curriculum. Also, to the parents who are supportive and who always doing the sacrifices just to make their child get a better education although the new curriculum has now implemented in our country. This can help them to at least know that K-12 has a lot of advantages and it will widen their perspectives regarding the curriculum.

**Statement of the Purpose**

What are the lived experiences of teachers in the new teaching environment?

### Research Framework
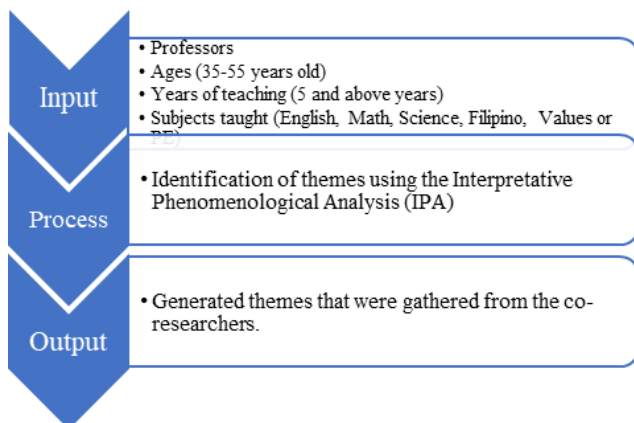


**Figure 1.** The Input-Process-Output Cycle of the study

## Methodology

### Research Design

The researchers have used the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) because it is concerned to understand the lived experiences of an individual and with how participants themselves make sense of their experiences. This type of qualitative strategy is a good analysis which balances phenomenological description with their insightful interpretation, and which anchors these interpretations in the participants' accounts. It is also likely to maintain focus so that particular variations are not lost, and to keep a close focus on meaning. A degree of transparency or a clear account of process, key points illustrated by verbatim quotes is also crucial to estimating the transferability of an IPA study.

### Research Locale

This study was conducted at Polytechnic University of the Philippines. This helped the researchers to find and learn the lived experiences of teachers/professors in the new changing environment which is the K-12 program. This is for reliability and impulsiveness of the information that will be gathered. Also, this will enable the researchers to know if the strategies they were using are effective for senior high school students as long as it fits the scope and limitation of the research.

### Sample Participants

The present study utilized a purposive sampling technique that researchers have used, the capable judgment to select participants that served as the representative of the population of teachers on how they deal with the changing teaching environment. Purposive sampling may prove its efficiency when exploring on how their lives changed as they get into the new teaching environment.

### Research Instruments

1. Approval Letter was given to the co-researchers that guaranteed the research will be conduct in the specific parameters and premises.
2. Informed Consent emphasized the rights of the co-researcher and the confidentiality and the nature of the interview. The researchers looked for approval from the co-researchers who participated to lay out their rights and benefits.
3. Voice recorder was a necessary tool for the interview and transcription process. It recorded everything that the co-researchers have said and to easily identify what the co-researcher stated.
4. An aide-memoire or guide questions contained a list of questions that would serve as the basis of the whole interview. Linking this instrument to the present study, the researchers used the aide memoire as a guide question to help the co-researchers to explain their lived experiences in the changing teaching environment.
5. Pre-Qualifying Form

## Results

Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) on the series of interviews with three (3) co-researchers resulted in the emergence of five (5) master themes. These were as follows:

- Techniques to handle senior high school students' behavior.
- Adjustments on handling senior high school students
- Changes occurred in the salary
- Advantages of the new curriculum
- Challenges of the new curriculum

**Table 1:** Master Themes and Related Superordinate Themes

| Master Themes | Superordinate Themes |
|---|---|
| **TECHNIQUES TO MANAGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' BEHAVIOR** | **Discipline** |
| | **Technology** |
| | **Motivation** |
| **ADJUSTMENTS ON HANDLING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** | **Curriculum Familiarization** |
| | **Classroom Management** |
| **SALARY CHANGE** | **Salary Dissatisfaction** |
| | **Overcoming Dissatisfaction** |
| **ADVANTAGES OF THE NEW CURRICULUM** | **Competitiveness** |
| | **New Experiences** |
| **CHALLENGES OF THE** | **Immature Students** |
| | **Unprepared Government** |

| NEW CURRICULUM | |
|---|---|

Simulacrum of the Study



**Figure 2.** The Simulacrum of the Study

The illustration symbolizes the lived experiences of teachers in the new teaching environment. The one who is suffering represents the college teachers. They suffer and risk their profession as a professor when they became a senior high school teacher. Similarly, the teacher is reaching the box which represents techniques for them to help their students to manage their behavior and to widen the understandings of their students. On the other hand, the one who's wearing a mask represents the disadvantages and the challenges of implementing this curriculum in our country, it gives the teachers a lot of work and all the adjustments that the teachers will apply to teach the students effectively. Likewise, the salary that they get when they were in college is not the same as before, because of the new curriculum, they receive a salary that they don't deserve as a senior high school teacher because they feel dissatisfied about it. The student who has a bag represents the advantages of the k-12 curriculum. He helps the teacher to get up and to realize that this curriculum has a good impact on our country and to everyone.

**Summary of Findings**

This qualitative study "From College to K-12 Real quick": The Lived Experiences of Teachers in the Changing Teaching Environment, aimed to discern the central question: "What are the lived experiences of teachers in the changing teaching environment?" including those issues and concerns they have experienced, the changes that occurred in their salary after being a teacher in senior high school, adapting the curriculum change and the adjustments and generating the new techniques.

The researchers have used a validated aide-memoire which was given to five (5) teachers in senior high school who were 35-55 years of age and have experienced the changes that occurred in their teaching profession when they become a senior high school teachers. The researchers used purposive sampling in identifying their co-researchers and the interview session lasted for 40 minutes. The statements that we have collected from the co-researchers were analyzed using interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA). The master and superordinate themes were later uncovered.

1. How will you manage senior high school students' behavior?

**Techniques To Handle Senior High School Behavior**

The co-researchers stated what techniques they use when it comes to the behaviors of the senior high school students and on how they were able to manage and cope up with the new set of students and new curriculum environment.
Discipline:
The co-researchers identified classroom discipline is a good help to handle the behaviors of senior high school students. They use discipline to ensure that the routine is maintained, school rules are enforced, and the students are in a safe learning environment.

**Technology:**

The co-researchers identified that approaching students by the means of technology can make a better relationship between the student and the teacher because professors can reach out the students immediately or when they need of something about the school works.

**Motivation:**

The co-researchers identified that motivating the students is also an effective way to manage the behaviors of the senior high school students. Motivated students are more eager to learn and take an interest. Teaching a class full of motivated students is enjoyable for teacher and student alike.

2. What adjustments did you make in handling your students?

**Adjustments On Handling Senior High School Students**

The co-researchers stated on how they should adjust with their new teaching environment and because it's new to them, they had a difficulty to adjust because it is their first time to teach in the new set of students, the senior high school.

**Curriculum Familiarization:**

The co-researchers identified that because it's new to their part, they asked people who are also professional and familiar to this curriculum so that they have a guide, or they will know what to do to the students of senior high school.

**Classroom Management:**

The co-researchers identified that they use classroom management to adapt to the new curriculum to handle students more effectively. They learned how to adapt that some of the senior high school students are not the same as college students that's why they set a rule to manage and cope up with their new sets of students.

3. What changes occurred in your salary when you became a senior high school teacher?

## Salary Change

The co-researchers stated their point when the new curriculum implemented our country. The changes that occurred in their salary and on how they were able to manage or adjust with it since they don't have a choice but to follow because it's the rule of our country.

## Dissatisfaction:

The co-researchers identified that they were not satisfied with what they get in their salary the moment they handled the senior high school. Also, they cannot help but wonder why it suddenly changed and they didn't know that it will be like this.

## Overcoming Dissatisfaction:

The co-researchers identified how they could manage their salary the moment they handled senior high school students. They had found some ways on how they can be thrifty because of the sudden change in their salary. They learned how to manage things and on how to set aside the things or the desires they want.

4. What are the advantages of implementing this new curriculum?

## Advantages Of The New Curriculum

The co-researchers stated the advantages of this new curriculum that was implemented in our country. Also, what is the significance of this curriculum has to offer not only for the teachers but especially for the teachers who have a big impact on this new teaching environment.

## Competitiveness:

The co-researchers identified that one of the advantages of implementing this new curriculum in our country will help us to be globally competitive. Educating students to become global citizens will allow them to learn about the interdependence of the world's systems, feel ethically forced to go up against worldwide shameful acts and make a dependable move to advance a simple, serene and supportable world.

## New Experiences:

The co-researchers identified that their new experiences had been an advantage to have a new understanding of the new curriculum. Because they were not familiar with the new curriculum, they have learned a lot dealing with this because it's their first time to teach in college after many years. They were eager to learn new experiences to cope up with their new environment.

5. What are the disadvantages of this new curriculum?

## Challenges Of The New Curriculum

The co-researchers stated the disadvantages and the challenges of implementing this new curriculum in our country. It has a big impact not only to their part but also to the part of the students and the parents who suffer to give us a good education.

## Immature Students:

The co-researchers identified that the disadvantages of implementing this new curriculum are that the students are immature. They defined this as a disadvantage because the students in college are not as the same as the senior high school students even though it should be the same, they don't have an idea how senior students are not the same with the behaviors of college students.

## Unprepared Government:

The co-researchers identified that one of the disadvantages of implementing this new curriculum is that the government is not prepared to execute a program. They were not prepared to execute this program that's why until now, many people do not agree to this new curriculum because it takes time to be able to graduate or finish the college of the students.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings, the statement of the problem has been answered by the co-researchers. The researchers analyzed how to manage unruly students. The first is, classroom discipline like assigning classroom officers to maintain the classroom at ease and the second is by motivating them because it is one of an effective way to manage the behaviors of the senior high school students.

The researchers knew how it feels on how to become a professor in senior high school but sad to say some of our professors were unfamiliar in the new implemented curriculum because we know they came in college but when the K-12 was implemented in our country, they need to adjust their teaching strategies when it comes to the senior high school students because in college, they teach and teach and they do not care if the students are not listening but in senior high school, they need to get the attention of every student to be sure that the students are listening, and they need to assign rule or a classroom management because some of the senior high school students are childish they need to understand that they are college student.

Being a professor in K-12 aside from the adjusting the new curriculum, sad to say our professors were not satisfied in their salary financials, they were not satisfied on what they get in their salary the moment they handled the senior high school. Also, they cannot help but wonder why it suddenly changed and they didn't know that it will be like this.

Now that the new curriculum was implemented here in our country, it will help us to be globally competitive, because if we do not have a K-12 program, if we go abroad then you're a just equivalent of second-year college and to improve the quality of education of students, and of course this will bring

new experiences in every professor who is teaching now in senior high school.

Lastly, the researchers found what are the disadvantages of implementing in K-12 curriculum here in our country based on what the co-researchers stated in the interview. Because of that, one of the reasons why it has a disadvantage is the immature students. It's hard on their part because of the behaviors that they say about senior high school students. Also, the co-researchers stated that the government is one of the problems why this new curriculum is a disadvantage. They are not ready for executing this program.

## Limitations and Future Studies

The study's focal point tackled about the lived experiences of teachers in the changing teaching environment on how they changed their strategies, generated new techniques and the changes occurred in their salary for the sake of the new curriculum, in which recommendation was advocated from the summary and the results of the study.

For the Teachers or Professors
1.To continue the support to the students of K-12;
2.To develop and help the students to find their passions and abilities; and
3.To make a new way of developing teaching strategies.
For the Future Researchers
1.To explore the lived experiences of a teachers in the changing teaching environment;
2.To explore the issues related to the main topic of this study; and
3.That they may use this study as a reference for future researchers about the lived experiences of teachers in the changing teaching environment.
For Guidance Counselors and Professionals
1.To develop programs or seminars that would help the students to distinguish their true abilities and skills;
2.To continue the support to this curriculum; and
3.To make a new way in developing this new curriculum.
For People Reading this study
1.To bring awareness about the changing strategies of senior high school teachers who used to teach college students;
2.To be more knowledgeable on how the teacher changed and developed their strategies and how teachers cope with the new sets of students; and
3.To deeply understand the issues that been tackled in this study.

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