Increasing English Performance in Chinese Schools
A Gap Analysis
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Case Study Questions
1. What are the knowledge and skill, motivational, and organizational barriers that are preventing the English Department at Palm Tree Middle School from increasing the English ability of students?
2. What are the knowledge, motivation, and organizational solutions to those barriers?

Methods and Data Analysis
A mixed methods study:
1. Questionnaires – 12 Distributed, 12 Returned, 1 Removed
2. Vocabulary Knowledge Size Test – 9 Participants
3. Classroom Audio Analysis – 3 Classes
1. Interviews – 3 English Teachers

Significance & Findings: Validated Causes

| KNOWLEDGE | Teachers do not have enough vocabulary to teach English as a second language effectively. Teachers do not know how to differentiate instruction Teachers do not have various teaching strategies to effectively deliver lessons to students. |
| MOTIVATION | Teachers lack the persistence in focusing on increasing all students’ English level. |
| ORGANIZATION | Classrooms of radically different ability interferes with classroom instruction. Teaching schedules do not offer enough hours of English instruction. |

Recommended Solutions
- Increase the vocabulary of all teachers.
- Increase Differentiation & teaching strategies.
- Set clear, current, and challenging goals.
- Group students by ability.
- Increase English hours to 200 hours/year.

Key Literature
- Gap Analysis Framework (Clark & Estes, 2008)
- Importance of the Problem (Guo & Beckett, 2012)
- Increasing Vocabulary (Nation, 2000)
- Differentiating Instruction (Tomlinson, 2014)
- Teaching Strategies (Woodhouse, 2010).
- The Need for Goals (Rueda, 2011).
- Student Grouping Practices (Cheung, 2003)
- Hours Needed to Increase English (Nunan, 2002)
- Model of Assessment (Kirkpatrick, 2006)

Recommended Solutions
- Vocabulary Knowledge Size and Age.
- The impact of the Cultural Revolution on Teachers’ English attainment.
- The role of the Cultural Revolution and its impact on the current state of English proficiency of Chinese citizens.
- Comparative analysis of Vocabulary Knowledge Size of teachers from top-tier schools versus bottom-tier schools.
- Investigate teachers’ best practices at top-tier schools to increase student English ability.
- Impact of ability grouping in collectivistic cultures.

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