

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/high-school-change/>

This video is a detailed reflection on the work of Karen Seashore Lewis and discussions about educational change, particularly in middle and high schools. The speaker reflects on their introduction to Lewis's work, which began in the late 1980s following their move to Canada from the UK, emphasizing the importance of understanding both the substance and process of educational change.

Key points discussed include:

1. **Innovative Educational Research**: The speaker highlights Lewis's research on high school innovation and the conditions necessary for effective change, noting the evolution of educational planning and the idea of embracing problems as opportunities for growth.
2. **Knowledge Utilization**: They mention Lewis's concept of knowledge utilization, suggesting a shift to knowledge circulation, which involves co-creating knowledge between researchers and practitioners. This video fosters a more collaborative and effective educational environment.
3. **Challenges in High Schools**: The complexity of high schools, including issues of size, student engagement, and subject-oriented teaching structures, complicates innovation compared to elementary schools. The speaker argues that high school teachers often face unique challenges, including a stronger attachment to their subject areas and student disengagement.
4. **Professional Learning Communities**: This video stresses the importance of professional learning communities that encourage collaboration among educators. The speaker contends that changes should be gradual and built on existing strengths rather than imposing new structures all at once.
5. **Crisis in Education**: The speaker discusses recent crises in education, including student absenteeism and teacher recruitment and retention, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. They advocate for changing the learning experience to make it more engaging and relevant to students' lives and aspirations.
6. **Vision for the Future**: Lastly, the speaker encourages rethinking the perception of teaching as merely a job, promoting it as a fulfilling career that offers opportunities for growth, change, and impact in the lives of students.

Overall, the speaker emphasizes the need for collaboration, understanding the complexities of educational systems, and fostering a supportive environment for both students and educators to thrive.