# What shapes teachers, and how does this impact teaching?





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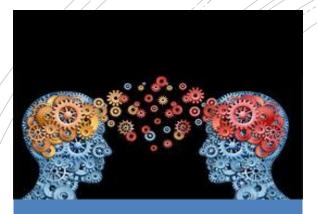
## **Teacher cognition (TC)**

#### 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.



#### **Features of stages**

Stages are not linear.
There is no age bias.
Context & professional environment influence stages.
Personal life plays a role.
Stages influence TC – understanding this may help teachers know themselves.
Helps understand teacher attitudes during various stages.

May help school leaders to motivate teachers.

**Relevance of stages** 

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!