

On 9 December 2019, ITEN Teacher Fellow Frankirvin Pilgrim presented a workshop on his experiences in the ITEN Teacher Workshop and Seminar in Peru, and shared his insight on collaborative learning techniques and science inquiry.



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Teachers

ITEN Teacher Fellow and math and physics teacher Frankirvin Pilgrim **presented his first pedagogical workshop** on the importance of active learning in STEM fields.

...in math and science from St. Joseph's Convent Grenville school participated in the workshop.

- Drive to empower young women into science and STEM fields
- Classes must be shifted to more student-centered approaches
- Strategies used should be collaborative and more scientific
- Create Independent learners, Critical thinkers and responsible individuals
- The method taught was the scientific approach

As a teacher leader, Frankirvin is an advocate for change, and he is bringing his school along with him. His workshop included the analysis of a complex STEM problem in which teachers played the role of students as they advocated for the most economical and environmentally-conscious way to provide water dispensing systems to the school.





Teaching math and science through active, collaborative learning takes time, which is something that teachers often lack.

Frankirvin says that as a teacher "you have to balance the fun, interests...bringing in the rational thinking, building on what they know, with the [additional] need to complete the syllabus. In our system, a period for science or math is just 40 minutes."

Math and science teachers at the workshop concluded that **active learning is really a social act**, and suggested that a systemic improvement to education in their context would benefit from **increasing math and science periods from 40 to 60 minutes**.

Frankirvin also believes another way forward to improving education in Grenada is to promote teacher learning through professional networks.

As he plants the seed of professional learning in STEM among his colleagues, he has an even wider vision for his country: "I would like to see an organized network of science and math teachers. When people share experiences and ideas, you can build or modify [them] to suit your needs."

