

Professor Palaniandy speaks on the pedagogy of Tertiary Assessments



Participants of the Assessment Workshop in Koronivia

Well-designed assessments can encourage active learning amongst students, but if not conveyed and practised correctly, it can create havoc in the education system.

These are the comments of senior academic Professor Soloamoney Palaniandy, Executive Dean, School of Education, University of Goroka, PNG while recently speaking to 33 academics from the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) in Koronivia.

Professor Palaniandy, who is also a well-known educator in Malaysia and the region, stressed the importance of theory versus practise in assessment skills and how it should be applied in the lecture rooms.

The workshop which was also held at Derrick Campus, Samabula and Nasinu Campus was facilitated by FNU's Centre for Learning and Teaching Enhancement (CLTE) to enhance

assessment skills amongst educationists at FNU.

Professor Soloamoney Palaniandy said innovative and engaging assessment delivery could encourage active learning.

"Assessment at the tertiary level is a problem everywhere in the world, and I encourage teaching staff to know the purpose and how to streamline the assessments for students," said Professor Palaniandy.

The senior academic added that assessing students has always been a critical component of learning and the workshop was aimed to enhance the assessment skills of the participants.

"Most of the lecturers, not only in Fiji but in various other countries, have content knowledge only. I am hopeful that through this workshop, the teaching staff at FNU will acquire the skills on how to carry out a proper assessment and how to come with good exam papers," he added.

Associate Dean Learning and Teaching Enhancement at FNU, Dr Deepak Prasad said the workshop is part of CLTE's efforts to help build teachers' capacity for adopting new pedagogies for promoting lifelong learning beyond the context of immediate assessment practices.

"I am pleased to see that the participants found the workshop worthwhile to participate," said Dr Prasad.

CLTE will continue to facilitate similar workshops this year to strengthen the capacity of university staff and improve on delivery to students.



Professor Soloamoney Palaniandy while speaking to the participants during the workshop