

**A STUDY ABOUT THE SUPPORT RECEIVED BY TEACHERS  
DURING THE TEACHING PRACTICE STAGE 1 OF THE  
POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

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Teaching practice component of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education Programme of the Open University of Sri Lanka is conducted through the distance mode with the purpose of improving professional competencies of teachers. It was seen that there were some problems in relation to the support provided to teachers during teaching practice stage 1(TPS1). The survey research design was used for this study. The sample consisted of 50 teachers of the Colombo centre. The main data collection instrument was teachers' questionnaire. Data analysis was done by using mixed methods. According to teachers, principals and mentors have supported them to a great extent and master teachers to some extent to do their TPS1 properly. But there were problems with principals mainly in sharing experiences. In relation to mentors, there were problems in writing behavioural objectives. With master teachers mainly there were problems in giving instructions for preparing and using teaching aids and writing lesson notes. Teachers made some suggestions to improve TPS1 further.