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EVERY child has the capacity and the ability to learn a certain level of achievement says Curriculum Development Unit Principal Education Officer Primary Kelera Taloga.

She said while there were no external examinations in place until a child reached form six, students would still have to earn a place in the next level through internal assessments.

Ms Taloga made the comments at the workshop on internal assessment in Primary and Secondary schools held at the Fiji National University's Lautoka campus.

She said internal assessments was the tool that would drive teaching and learning process and should remain a servant to the curriculum outcomes and bench marks not the master.

"It's a mammoth task. Internal assessment is a new ball game altogether. Removing the examinations Fiji Intermediate Examination, Fiji Eighth Year and Fiji Junior Certificate has a lot of implications," she said.

"But as teachers we know there should be some things in place to ensure that there is learning. Especially for Primary schools it's a challenge because there are 729 primary schools to organize and train them from the interior to the outer island schools."

Ms Taloga said teaching and assessment should be totally child centered so that no child was left behind.

"We are assessing what we value instead of valuing what we assess. Child learning is valued then what the child is expected to learn will drive what is assessed," she said

Workshop Coordinator Hem Chand said the outcome of the workshop was to create an awareness of the new direction of assessment in schools.

He said this was also to create awareness on the Internal Assessment strategies in place in schools and to discuss implications of the new assessment direction on the preparation and training of pre-service teachers.

For more information

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