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Conference
on Contemporary Issues in Education

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ABSTRACTS BOOK

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ABSTRACTS

The Impossible as a Mediator in Communication and Education

Eugene Subbotsky, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Abstract
The paper assesses the role of impossible entities and events as psychological tools able to enhance cognitive functioning. In three studies, participants were exposed to films containing either impossible or contrasting possible entities, and then tested on creativity, the ability to distinguish fantasy from reality, and the ability to memorise commercial brands placed within films. In all the studies, participants (British 4-, 6- and 8-year-old children, adolescents and adults) showed a significantly better improvement in the aforementioned abilities after watching the film with impossible entities than after watching the film with contrasting possible entities. The results are discussed in terms of possible applications of impossible entities in a classroom.

Keywords: impossible entities, creativity, fantasy/reality distinction, commercial advertising, memory.

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Assessing the Socıo-Economic Determinants of Women Empowerment in Pakistan

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Nasra Wajiha, Professor, Head of the Department of Psychology, Govt. College for Women Gulberg, Lahore, Pakistan

Abstract
Women empowerment is one of the most important that has been discussed in developing countries. In this paper, an attempt is made to explore the determinants that have an influence on women empowerment in Pakistan. Sample consisted on 200 female respondents from two renowned universities in Lahore. The empirical results showed that the content of education, economic participation of women, poverty and economic opportunity available for women increases their empowerment. In this study, apart from conventional variables, a variable, Women having a bank account was also tested which showed a extreme significant positive impact on women empowerment. This supports the economic opportunity available to the woman increases their power. Finally, it is concluded that these significant factors influences empowerment of women, so one can focus on these determinants to increase and enhance women's role in our society.

Keywords:

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Learning pharmacology in Mexico: laboratory instruction

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Abstract

A steep decline has occurred in the number of hours devoted to basic sciences laboratory instruction in most medical schools. In some of them, laboratory exercises have been eliminated; thus medical students are insufficiently trained in the skills, values and habits of science. This trend seems to be inevitable because many medical school basic science departments are probably not capable of running an animal laboratory; thereby computer simulations have substituted live animals in medical laboratory learning. This article describes the laboratory program developed at our Pharmacology department. The laboratory manual contains a total of 33 computerized laboratory sessions; many of them are used to reinforce basic concepts and facts of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacometrics, and toxicology, as well as to gain insight into principles of biological variation, experimental design and statistical analysis. Others review the sources of drug information that range from simple classification, access to bibliographical data bases, to search strategies of individual topics; here the main objective is to encourage students to judge the validity of conclusions based on study design and the data presented. And in others, students run practical exercises on drug related basic and clinical problems; in these sessions, they are required to carefully analyze and organize the data, construct tables and figures, compare their results with available information, and discuss findings. In a few sessions the quality of therapeutic reasoning and prescribing skills are reviewed. The laboratory program presented here constitutes an effort for a better formative and less factual instruction to medical students. We believe that laboratory exercises are an essential factor in the active acquisition of knowledge and the training of tomorrow´s doctors, especially in terms of developing the students' ability to apply the scientific method, and prepare them to systematically address the problems of diagnosis, prognosis and treatment.

Keywords:

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Synchronous Approach of E-Learnıng In English Language Teaching For People Wıth Special Needs

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Abstract

Synchronous approach of e-learning and quality of English language teaching has a momentous effect on concept learning of people with special needs. Teaching of English language electronically improves the language skills of people with special needs. Synchronous approach of e-learning has a significant role in English language teaching for people with special needs. The study has been conducted to explore the impact of e-learning in the English language teaching on people with special needs. Questionnaire has been used as tool of research. Chi square has been used in analysis of collected data. The study will be important for developing English language curricula. The study will be useful for researchers, curriculum developers and policy makers. The study will be beneficial for the English language teachers. The study will be fruitful in the teaching of English language to people with special needs. The study will be of enormous important in managing English language centers.

Keywords: E-Learning, Special needs, Language, Teaching

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The Solution of Teaching English As A Foreign Language Integrating With Kazakh and Russian Languages to Students of Kazakhstan Technical Universities

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Abstract

In the research there has been made the analysis of curricula on language for professional specific purposes in the conditions of multilingual education. There have been developed the content of curriculum on integrative learning of three languages with technical orientation, the system of lessons on language for specific purposes taking into account the principles of bilingual education and using innovative methods of teaching English as a foreign language. In the article the authors carried out the pedagogical experiment on the use of developed methods of integrative teaching three languages and technical language.

Keywords:

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Formation of the creative person

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Abstract

This article is a study of the «creativity» and «creative work» conceptions in modern higher education, where the analysis of their major functions and key characteristics is carried out. This study challenges current thinking about the integration of these phenomena into the area of modern education. It is essential to note that «creativity» and «creative work» are presented in the publication as different sorts of the notion. Special emphasis is laid on the necessity of working out the universal creative teaching approach in higher education developing students' creative potential and providing them with productive knowledge. The article also deals with the role, aims and tasks of creative education concept. The advantages of this concept receive attention in the paper. The importance of transition from traditional system of education to creative educational system based on innovative educational model is stressed by the author. In the present day, Russian society is in need of specialists who are not only possessed of a functional readiness for professional activity, but who are also well formed creative individuals.

Keywords: creativity, creative work, social creativity, characteristics of creativity, creative class, creative education

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Modernization and education of "digital" generation

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Ainura Kurmanaliyeva, Head of Department of Religious and Cultural studies, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan.

Abstract

The main idea of President`s Message of recent years to the Kazakhstan nation is a social-economic modernization. The term "modernization" has been constantly presenting in the topic of Message for the last two years. These Messages confirm the importance of the idea of modernization for Kazakhstan`s state system`s effective functioning. Social-economic modernization provides for essential advancement of the role of human capital. One of the main factors of reconstituting of human capital along with financial, social resources is a model of educational system i.e. schools and universities.

Keywords:

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Impact of Reward System on Job Satisfaction Through Organizational Commitment: A Study of Private Banks Based In Islamabad Pakistan

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Abstract

The study of reward system based job satisfaction has earned great attention from the researchers all over the world in recent times. It is commonly believed that job satisfaction enhances the organizational commitment among employees of different organizations and this research study will examines the impact of reward system on job satisfaction which ultimately enhances the overall organizational commitment among the employees of private banks of Pakistan based in Islamabad. Through a questionnaire data has been collected from the lower and middle level employees of the ten private banks based in Islamabad Pakistan. Data evaluation has been performed to collect the results. This research paper enhances the understanding of the importance of reward system based job satisfaction for the employees of different private banks of Pakistan.

Keywords: Reward System, Employees, Job Satisfaction, Organizational Commitment, Private Banks, Pakistan

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Critical Issues in Indian Higher Education System: Observations and Suggestions

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Abstract

India boasts of the third largest higher education system in the world, after China and the USA. In fact, it is likely to take over USA in terms of students' strength by early next decade. While china has the largest number of students in its higher educational institutions (20 per cent of its youth compared to 11 per cent of the Indian youth), India surpasses in its distinctive advantage of English language competence. This makes Indian higher education important internationally.

Indian higher education system is facing a tough challenge – both internally and externally. There is a loud cry from different corners of the society questioning its present objectives, relevance, functionality and long-term utility. Its social accountability, transparency in its working and its overall response to the national concerns have been strongly questioned. Doubts are expressed concerning the role of universities and colleges as leading lights to take the nation further in its scientific endeavours. Keeping all these issues at the centre, the

present paper looks into certain critical elements and dimensions of Indian higher education system as a systemic requirement of India today.

This paper argues that higher education in India, like in a score of developing countries, does not prepare persons with applied skills. The insistence on theory-based conceptual knowledge drives the application to a second place. The graduate coming out of the university is academically qualified but not "employable" to perform skilled operations required by the industry and other sectors of society. To support this basic argument, the paper carefully considers the basic training content of four training centres in the country, set up by four major employment sectors – IT, manufacturing, banking and retail marketing – as employers. Practicing principles of industry-academia linkages are evaluated in critical terms and pragmatic and practicable way-out is suggested. The triangular association between knowledge-skills-values on the one hand and knowledge-attitude-practice on the other are carefully looked into as the paper concludes. Further, in addition to the body of the text, the article contains references for future research in this vital area by scholars.

Keywords: higher education, Indian education, universities, employability, ethics in education, globalisation

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The Effect of Teaching Cultural Issues to Improve EFL Students' Translation Ability

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Abstract

This research is a practical step towards identifying cultural differences in Mazandarani and Terkman, to understand how the effective teaching cultural issues in translation classes can be helpful in creating correct and understandable translation. One group of 20 as experimental received instruction, whereas the two others with no instruction. After the treatment it was concluded that teaching cultural issues was effective to improve students translation ability. In addition, it was concluded that, however, there was a difference between those who received cultural instruction in Terkman culture, but the difference is not great with those of that culture.

Keywords: Language, Translation, Culture, Teaching explicitly

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Using Concept Mapping method for assessing students' Scientific Literacy

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Aet Möllits, Estonia
Miia Rannikmäe, Estonia
Regina Soobard, Estonia

Abstract

The Natural Science Education Standards (NSES) has defined scientific literacy as knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts which helps us to make personal decisions, participate in cultural and civic speculation and take part in economic productivity. In order to assess students` cognitive components of scientific literacy we need a reliable and valid instrument, appropriate for the survey and easily usable by students, teachers and researchers.

The aim of the study is to evaluate concept mapping as an assessment tool for determining cognitive aspects of scientific literacy. Students` concept maps can be assessed by different measures, for example, number of concepts, number and quality of propositions, concept centrality, size and hierarchy of the concept map, clusters in the maps. Our aim is to identify measures which are relevant and valid for assessing students` cognitive components of scientific literacy.

Concept mapping was used as an assessment method in an Estonian large scale study (LoteGym, 2011-2014). The results from the PISA-like test were compared with the results obtained from the concept maps. The correlation analyses showed that as a predictor for students' cognitive components of scientific literacy are

better suitable the quality measures of concept mapping (e.g. number of high quality propositions). The analysis of the concept maps also showed, that students intend to create more propositions inside the "everyday life" cluster than inside the "subject" cluster or between these two clusters.

Keywords:

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The historical memory of the Tatar people in the works of musical culture.

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Abstract

Studying of the structure and content of the social consciousness of non-Russian peoples in Russia, the historical aspect is very new and promising scientific task. Of particular interest is the study of structures of Tatar- Muslim's historical memory in the region of the Volga and the Urals. The aim of our study: to trace the formation of the cultural symbols of the Tatar people, contributing to the folding of national identity. Based on the study of Tatars' historical memory structures we found the qualitative content of social consciousness mostly of Tatar youth in the late nineteenth - early twentieth centuries, named social protest songs of Shakirds in madrasas. Studying of Volga Tatars' amateur musical creativity is the new look, considering Shakirds' songs in madrasas as a historical source, which also reflects the historical memory and national identity of the Tatars.

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Relevance of Education to Real Life and of Real Life to Education –Experiential Learning For International Business

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Abstract

Experiential learning, or learning by doing approach actively involves the students in a concrete experience and helps them to become confident. As compared to traditional classroom based learning – which might even include a component of experiential learning such as business simulations, our "Experiential Learning Model" which was developed on the principle of "linking classroom with the business community" not only targets skill building, but it also seeks to benefit the local businessmen in their efforts to open up to new markets. Therefore it includes a real life experience and contact with real business people; allowing students to become not only confident but also more "motivated".

In this study, we will share our first outcomes of an ongoing research project covering a series of experiential learning methods. We have developed an experiential learning model for students of international trade and marketing in Gediz University, a foundation university unique for hosting more than 70 nationalities in Izmir, Turkey. The project covers the small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) in the region, which are in need of support in terms of accessing international markets. One of our aims was also to examine how the multicultural nature of a university can be utilized for the benefit of the local business.

Our findings show that the impact of such a real life experience model on student interest and motivation is high.

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Efficacy of a training program in some self-managed strategies on developing English Language reading comprehension and reader's self-perception of 11th grade female students

Noura Shabak Alrwele, Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Saudi Arabia.

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the efficacy of a self-managed training program on developing the accuracy in responding to text-explicit, text-implicit questions, and reader's self-perception of 11th   grade female students learning English as a foreign language, and to determine if significant differences existed between the research groups. A quasi experimental design was used. Participants assigned to   experimental group were (24) while (23) students were assigned to the control group that received traditional instruction. A program consisting of 18 sessions was designed and implemented. Data were collected using a reading comprehension test and the "Reader Self Perception Scale" (RSPS/2), each instrument was administered as Pre- and Posttest. Findings revealed that students in the experimental group performed better than those in the control group during the posttest on both text explicit, text implicit reading comprehension questions, and also on   the Reader Self- Perception Scale (RSPS/2). statistically significant differences (P<.05)   were found between the experimental and control group regarding their scores in text explicit , text implicit reading comprehension , and overall reader self- perception mean scores
Based on the findings of the study ,The research came out of several recommendation.

Keywords:

The Athlete Triangle: Coach, Athlete and Parents as an Educational System, Maximizing the Benefits of Youth Sports

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Abstract

Motivated participation of parents, children and coaches in youth sports activities create an effective educational system. This system can be described as a continuous process of positive interaction between the three elements of the system. Recent studies however show that such a three-dimensional education system is underdeveloped, is not positive enough and could be more effective if certain social instruments were used: more active engagement of parents in youth sports activities; pressure on children were replaced by motivation in psychologically favourable environment; coaches had continuous learning possibilities. The article analyses how this system functions, what is the educational effect of the collaboration between children, coaches and parents. The goal of the article is to disclose the characteristics of educational interaction of children, coaches and parents in youth sports activities. The following research methods are applied: scientific literature analysis and generalization methods. Scientific literature analysis revealed the importance of the three constituents of the education system. Parents choose the educations methods to be used in the training of their child's abilities and skills. Parents' interest in the child's sports activities creates positive emotions, builds better relations with the child, creates the need to improve knowledge of sport and education, changes parents' understanding about the quality of leisure time, and modifies their lifestyle. The role of coaches is revealed through the possibility to encourage the interaction of parents and children in sport, change the understanding of children and also of parents about the importance of sport as the means of education. Acting as a moderator, intermediary, and a consultant the coach can assist in developing education traditions in the family based on mutual respect, understanding and collaboration of the coach and parents, and commitment to share the responsibility for youth education.   The level, degree and continuation of the child's participation in sports activities depend on material and psychological support of the parents, physical and emotional wellbeing of the child, the coach's positive education strategy, competence and authority.

Therefore, the analysed system can be described as a triangle made of three interacting elements: children, parents and coaches. Positive emotional development of the child and willingness to train can only be ensured by open and conscientious collaboration of the three parties.

Although recently significant attention to the role of parents and coaches of children in sports was given by the researchers globally, the research is more important for the designing of educational programmes and methodologies that promote a more effective interaction between children, coaches and parents. The analysis of literature sources revealed that the majority of the surveys and studies are cross-sectional. That proves the relevance of multifaceted and longitudinal research into the change of relations between children, coaches and parents in the sporting environment.

Keywords: educational interaction, parents, coaches, children, sports activities.

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Are the First Year Graduate Students Equipped with the Effective Usage of PowerPoint® for Scientific Appliances?

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Sakalya Rajapakse, English Language Teaching Unit, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka

Abstract
This study was conducted to bridge the suspected gap between the knowledge gain and the usage of PowerPoint for scientific presentations of first year graduates. Participants (n= 102) were from different subject streams. A pre-tested, structured questionnaire was used with the emphasis on the basic understanding of suitable fonts, font-size and colour usage. Results revealed that, despite the multiple sources of PowerPoint® learning, very few were proficient in the matter. Almost all were familiar with PowerPoint®, but demonstrated amusingly poor knowledge in using a suitable font type and sizes for titles and body text. Over 80% of the students preferred using black fonts in white backgrounds and only two or three colours for fonts. They tend to use moderate amount of animations, which is slightly beyond the limit in scientific presentations. It was clearly shown that the undergraduates were not properly exposed to science appliances of PowerPoint®, so that an effective tool remains unexploited and misused.

Keywords: PowerPoint, Scientific Appliances, Font type, Font size, Colour combination, Animations

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The historical memory of the Tatar people in the works of musical culture.

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Abstract
The article reveals the role of the songs of social protest of the students of the Tatars-Moslems of the Volga region of late XIX - early XX centuries in the formation of historical memory of the people. High relevance of the topic is determined by social, historical, political and cultural factors. While working on this article we referred to valuable documents and materials on history of social and political movement of Tatars in late XIX - early XX centuries. Despite the fact that the formation and development of the national consciousness of Volga Tatars have been studied quite extensively by Russian scholars, the subject of Volga Tatar students' social protest songs of late XIX - early XX centuries has not been researched comprehensively and objectively.
Keywords: student social protest songs, Volga Tatars, social consciousness, traditions

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Student Perception toward Using Smartphone in Classroom

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Abstract
Due to the technological revolution and advent of new equipment, debatable question came out about the use of technologies such as laptops, PDAs, and smartphones in classroom and its effects on students learning. Because of the unknown impacts of using these technologies, it have been observed that faculties will adopt their own rules about allowing or banning of using technologies such as laptops, PDAs, and smartphones in classroom environment by students. Many researchers are debating over whether using technologies such as laptops help students to learn better or disadvantages them. Although several studies have done to show the impact of different technologies on students' learning, few studies have focused on the impacts of the smartphone on students' learning in class environment. One of the main technologies that is available for today's students and dominates the classroom is the smartphone. Smartphones are one of most popular devices that allow the users to connect to the internet, check emails, connect to social medias etc … Due to these convenient functionality smartphones have been used widely by new generations and college students. Although the smartphone has been used widely by students in the classroom, few researches have examined the impact of this device on students learning. For these reasons, this study is attempting to examine the relationship between using the smartphone and college student learning in classroom environment.

Keywords: Smartphones, Use of Smartphones, Smartphones in the classrooms, Smartphone and student learning

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Teaching EAP to Native Literates in Jordan: Challenges and Syllabus Design Solutions

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Abstract
This paper brings to attention a variety of difficulties in the teaching of English for academic purposes (EAP) in tertiary education. It indicates the growing recognition that students learning English as a means of access to advanced knowledge in the various disciplines at the University of Petra (UOP) in Jordan have highly specific language requirements. But equally, the paper reflects the sense of concern felt by language and special-subject teachers at the sheer scale of the problem now posed by students requiring specialist language help. Parallel with this is the increase in the variety and degree of language difficulties which they experience. The paper seeks to provide an overview of students' language difficulties investigated in previous and current research conducted by the researcher. The purpose is to draw these difficulties together and show how the constituents of an appropriately designed syllabus might ease some of the difficulties encountered. Hence, the proposal is for a general pattern for EAP syllabus which will ensure unity by teaching the skills and language that are common components of English for General Academic Purposes (EGAP), and at the same time allow for diversity by building in a range of constituents on a disciplinary basis; thus, teaching some prime linguistic and discourse features that are specific components of English for Special Academic Purposes (ESAP) which must be taken into account in the teaching of EAP to native Arab literates. The paper suggests a model of an EAP Syllabus Design.

Keywords: Unity, Diversity, Communicative Rhetorical Approach, EGAP, ESAP, Syllabus Design, Needs Analysis.

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Education Financing and Public-Private Partnership Development Assistance Models

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Abstract
This article will explain and argue for greater use of "public-private partnerships" (PPP) and "social impact bonds" (SIBs) that innovatively incorporate both the private and public sector to fund a specified education project for social good. In a PPP-SIB structure, a "success metric" is agreed upon prior to issuance by all related parties. If the success metric is met or exceeded, then the public sector (government entity and/or government affiliated entity) provides the needed funding for the education project. Conversely, if the success metric is not met, then the relevant private sector (and/or philanthropic organization) entity provides funding for the education project (rather than the government). Either way, the education project is funded, in what is referred to as a performance-based "public-private partnership" (PPP) model. This PPP funding model differs from traditional education bond funding, whereby the government would be entirely responsible for repaying the issued bond's principal and interest. In short, the use of SIBs and the PPP education funding model to complement (but not replace) other sources of education financing could help resolve some of the budgetary capital constraints that currently exist, whereby such capital constraints tangibly hamper educational productivity and performance.

Keywords: social impact bonds (SIBs), public-private partnerships (PPP), education financing, development assistance models

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The formation of skills and ability in students of analysis of emotional content of a text

Imanaliyeva Gaziza, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (Kazakhstan), Scholar of "Bolashak" program at University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States.

Abstract
A text renders an emotional influence on a listener and a reader. Emotional content of the text finds reflection on all levels of languages; dominant emotional meanings are revealed in the level of semantics in the text as a whle. A student should be able to divide into parts and analyze vocal means, with the help of which a text acquires definite emotional quality, as well as to gain devices, with the help of which there is created this or that emotional effect. The analysis of emotional content of a text contributes to the deepening of students language competency, and also the improvement of linguistic skills and psychological analysis of text.
The analysis of emotional content of the text is constructed in the systematization and a possibility of practical usage of theoretical knowledge. The goal of analysis of emotional content of the text – introduction with abilities of expression of emotional content, through mechanisms of embodiments of author's intention and peculiarities of perception of emotional contend by a reader/listener; study of models of complex analysis of emotive space of text.
A text is perceived both visually and audibly, in its own alive and notable intonational sounding. Especially through it creations of verbal art can reveal fully its emotional – figuraive wealth of its ideal content. Therefore the analysis of any text should precede with a reading of a text aloud.A single scheme of analysis of a text can not be, since texts are unigue and the goal of analysis should be diverse. However, it is apparent that for the students it is important to note general orientations, which could have served as original marks during the analysis of any text.
The analysis of text of emotional content – is one of the effective ways to deeply study a language.

Keywords:

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Oral Reviews: Improved Retention in STEM Majors

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Abstract

Oral reviews were first offered at the University of Colorado, Boulder. They are now being used successfully in seven universities across the country. These oral reviews are ungraded, voluntary one-hour sessions that are conducted before written exams. A facilitator joins a small group of six students and discusses conceptual questions that have been prepared in advance. Students stand at white boards so that they can draw diagrams, charts and graphs to demonstrate their understanding of the most important concepts. In Calculus, for example , students are asked to negotiate meaning and make mathematical connections in conversation with their peers and the facilitator. At George Mason University in Virginia, mathematics, biology, environmental science and geology are all using these formative assessments successfully in their introductory courses. Results include not only improved grades, but greater confidence on the part of students and better retention in STEM majors. Data show that course grades improve .6-1 letter grade for students who participate in orals before all three unit exams. Other benefits include helping students develop more expert beliefs about the nature of mathematics and/or science and creating a more collaborative learning environment and a stronger sense of community.

Keywords:

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Advancing Kindergarten Teachers' Knowledge and Capabilities of Differentiated Instruction Associated with Implementation of Thematic Integrated Curriculum

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Yu-Liang Chang, Department of Early Childhood Education, National Chiayi University, Taiwan

Abstract

Within the "multiple and heterogeneous" kindergarten classrooms that have young children with academic diversity, the implementation of "differentiated instruction" is truly valuable and useful in achieving the goals of considering individual differences and teaching with the student-center philosophy. However, do our kindergarten teachers have adequate professional knowledge and capability of evaluating young children's learning profiles, and designing and executing differentiated instruction (DI)? Based on these arguments, the researchers (as teacher educators) establish and develop a kindergarten teacher learning organization. Also, the main purpose of this study is to explore kindergarten teachers' professional growth of DI. A single-case holistic design is employed in this qualitative and "explanatory and descriptive" case study. One kindergarten classroom of one public elementary school in southern Taiwan is selected as the research field. Two kindergarten teachers and their young children are the main participants. Data is gathered through semi-structured observations, in-depth interviews and follow-up interviews, and various kinds of documents, and then analyzed qualitatively.   According to the results of preliminary analyses, main findings are reported as followings: At the beginning, it is found that these two teachers own adequate professional knowledge and capability in designing and executing the thematic integrated curriculum in the kindergarten classroom. However, their comprehension of DI is comparatively inadequate. Same as mentioned in previous studies and articles, they possess some misconceptions of DI; for example, they think DI is one kind of "instructional strategy or method", which is similar to other instructional strategies (or methods). After receiving the professional development program, they gradually become familiar with DI, as well as understanding how to design DI within the thematic integrated curriculum. Since this is an ongoing research, more findings and analyses (about how these teachers design and execute DI) will be provided at the presentation of the conference.

Keywords: Differentiated Instruction, Thematic Integrated Curriculum, Kindergarten Teacher

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Assessment with Information Technology Support

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Martin Misut, Department of Applied Informatics, Faculty of Bussiness Informatics, Slovak University of Economics, Slovakia.

Abstract

This article will describe the solution of effective assessment with the support of technology in Mathematics for engineers. It is a part of complex project containing a model of teaching, which includes the assessment with the support of technology, verification of the model by implementing in selected mathematics courses, adaptation of teaching model based on the results of the experiment, and development of recommendations and application for other subjects of study at the Faculty of Material Science and Technology, Slovak University of Technology (MTF STU) in Trnava.

Keywords:

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Human resource management practices and organizational performance: The role of interpersonal relationships in Chinese Market

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Jung-Feng Tseng, Department of Business Administration, National Quemoy University, Taiwan, Province of China.

Abstract

This study adopts a contextual perspective to explore how interpersonal relationships in Chinese societies affects the relationship between high-performance work practices (HPWPs) and organizational performance. Interpersonal relationships in the context of Chinese culture are discussed and applied to guanxi. Five manufacturing firms are examined using a qualitative case-study approach. The results show that HPWPs include cross-department training and education, performance-oriented evaluation, maintaining long-term client relationships, attractive salaries, teamwork, and, morality. Key indicators that measure organizational performance include market and financial performance. The results also show that types of firm guanxi include external, inter-organizational, and intra-organizational guanxi. External guanxi refers to relationships with government officials and taxation bureaus; inter-organizational guanxi refers to market relationships with suppliers, up-and-down stream manufacturers or suppliers, and buyers; and intra-organizational guanxi refers to employee-employee relationships. Intra-organizational guanxi directly affects HPWPs, whereas inter-organizational guanxi directly affects organizational performance. External guanxi moderates the relationship between HPWPs and organizational performance. These findings contribute to academic research and practical applications.

Keywords: human resource management practices, interpersonal relationship, organizational performance, China

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A Learning System based on the Attention Promotion Mechanism to Improve English Listening Learning Performance

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Abstract

In the context-aware learning, the learners interact with the learning environment to stimulate the learners' learning emotion. Learners devote their attention emotion to the context-aware learning environment and thus enhance their learning performance. Thus, the learning attention will affect learner's learning performance. How to design a learning system to promote the learning attention and thus to improve learning performance is a worth research topic for further exploration. In this study, we design a learning system based on the attention promotion mechanism to improve English listening learning performance. We use NeuroSky Mindset to detect learners' brainwaves and identify their attention. Thus, we can monitor learners' learning attention states during learning and help them with the attention promotion mechanism when their attention decreased. The mechanism could aid learners to stay in a good learning attention state.

In this study, an experiment has been conducted on a university English listening course. 40 college students in the course were divided into the experimental group and the control group. The results show that, students using the learning system with the attention promotion mechanism performed better than students using the learning system without the mechanism. In addition, students using the learning system with the attention promotion mechanism in experimental group can effectively promote their attention and enhance their learning performance.

Keywords: brainwave, context-aware learning, Educational technology, English listening learning system, learning attention

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Tradition or Modernity? Sitting Philosophy for Children within the African Outlook

Amasa Philip Ndofirepi, Faculty of Education, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Abstract

In this philosophical paper I investigate into the project of doing philosophy with children in Africa. While the Philosophy for Children programme has its roots in the Anglo-Saxon world, it is my case that it can sit well in Africa by giving it an African outlook. I venture into the currency of the post-colonial and the Africanisation agenda in education by exploring the plausibility of a uniquely 'African' Philosophy for Children. I argue that for any philosophy to be African, it should be a product of an amalgamation of the traditional and the modern in order to epitomise the 21st century African existential conditions.

Keywords: decolonisation, modernisation, Africanisation, critical thinking, education, culture, child

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Does Ict Improve the Efficiency of Learning?

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Milan Pokorny, Faculty of Education, Department of Mathematics and informatics, Trnava University in Trnava, Slovakia.

Abstract

The paper deals with efficiency of blended learning in selected courses, which belong to mathematics and computer science curriculum at Trnava University, Faculty of Education. The experiment, as a part of quality project, lasted for two years, when the subjects were taught by a combination of e-learning and traditional method. Complex solution covers model of blended teaching, which includes the on-line learning environment, assessment with the support of technology, verification of the model by implementing in selected courses, adaptation of teaching model and learning environments based on the results of experiments, as well as development of recommendations and application for other subjects of study at Trnava University in Trnava. We present a comparison of the results of pre- and final tests in both years for three selected courses, as well as the comparison of students' overall performance, having in the mind the improvement of teaching efficiency and ensurement of quality.

Keywords: ICT, learning, efficiency.

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The relationship between learning organization concepts and quality management principles in a service firm

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Abstract

The purposes of this study is to identify the degree to which employees exhibit the concepts of learning organization(LO) and total quality management(TQM) practices in a Korean insurance company and to verify the relationship between the sub-concepts of LO such as Shared Vision(SV), Mental Models(MM), Team Learning(TL), Personal Master(PM), and System Thinking(ST) and the sub-practices of TQM such as Teamwork(TW), Continuous Improvement(CI), Process Management(PMGMT), and Customer Focus(CF) in their workplace. This research finds the concept of LO is more familiar to the participants than the concept of TQM and only the PMGMT is significantly difference among the divisions of the company. Moreover, TL, ST, and PM have significant relationship with CI; TL and SV with TW; and ST with CF. Based on the results, the research find ST is most strongly related to CF and TL have the strongest relationship with both TW and CI. This research supports that "TQM and LO are mutually dependent" advocated by previous researches but LO concept did not cover the whole TQM concept in this firm, although some specific LO disciplines had consistently high relationship with some of TQM principles.

Keywords: learning organization, total quality management, service firm.

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Active learning Role on strategic I-Map thinking in Developing Reasoning Thinking

Khaled Alotaibi,Education College - King Saud University.

Abstract

The present study aimed to investigate Evaluation the I-map training on Developing Reasoning Thinking and the Intrinsic- extrinsic Motivation for Learning, and enhancing the academic achievement of a sample of students at Teachers' College in King Saud University. The study sample included 58 students who were divided randomly into two groups; one was an experimental group with 20 students and the other was a control group with 22 students. The following tools were used: e-courses by using I-map, Reasoning Thinking Tes, questionnaire to measure the intrinsic-extrinsic motivation for learning and an academic achievement test. The researcher taught the experimental group using e-courses by using I-map, while the control group was taught by using traditional education. The results showed that: - There were no statistically significant differences between the experimental group and the control group in Reasoning thinking skills. - There were statistically significant differences between the experimental group and the control group in the intrinsic-extrinsic motivation for learning in favor of the experimental group. -There were statistically significant differences between the experimental group and the control group in academic achievement in favor of the experimental group

Keywords: Active-learning, I-Map, Reasoning thinking, developing; e-learning, Saudi Arabia.

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Education Coupled with Entrepreneurial Process Approach Towards Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Education coupled with entrepreneurship is an intricate sustainable educational process towards sustainable development that is needed to eradicate poverty from the emerging enterprise spirit. Sustainable educational process is a kind of development process that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability, efficiency and values of the future generations to meet their own needs [1]. This process deals with series of actions to be implemented from the emerging enterprise spirit in order to eradicate poverty. Their outputs are international and national educational services which are provided to beneficiaries and thus there must be concerned to quantity and quality management. A person who sets up an enterprise (or business activity) and runs successfully is an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurial process is set of entrepreneurial activities interacting and inter-relating each other. That is quality in terms of relevance and degree of academic excellence and quantity in terms of number of things access to these activities. There is a challenge indeed for internationalization and nationalization of this service by our educational sector with relevant to the current and projected needs of our society and industries [2]. Their academic potential, credibility and excellence shall grow with respect to time. The ideas and ideals of the educational institutions evolve and change with special reference to current trends of international and national requirements. Education coupled with entrepreneurial process is an intricate process which must adopt an open, transparent and efficient approach in order to supply value added knowledgeable trained human power to meet the above requirements. Both quality and quantity management depend up on strong updated curriculum and syllabus, efficient teaching-learning process, performance evaluation, productivity of faculty, staff and students, research and development, consultancy and extension, students' support and progression, educational innovations, enhancement strategies, plans for institutional growth, feedback from stake holders, innovations in institutional development, management information system(MIS) , and information communication technology (ICT)[19]. In this research paper an approach has been discussed for education coupled with entrepreneurship which is an intricate process may need for sustainable development. Based upon this research, concept of total quality management (TQM) in an education sector may be implemented as the present quality assurance mechanisms are not providing efficient results to the beneficiaries. It is also need of the hour to include

entrepreneurship, environmental science and sustainable development subjects in curriculum of all the professional courses for better quality life.

Keywords: academic, ethics, process, quality, sustainable education.

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Study and Exploration on the Featured Teaching of Automation Control Theory during the Information Age

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DUAN Hui, GAO Na, Information Control and Engineering College, China University of Petroleum, China.

Abstract

To solve the problems in conventional teaching of automation control theory, we provide several featured teaching methods corresponding to its difficult learning and understanding. These featured teaching methods include macroscopic concept teaching, special background teaching of petroleum process control, enlightening teaching, recreation and interest teaching, review-connection-permutation teaching and so on, which have been developed into a special teaching system and idealism. The real practice teaches in recent five years show that the featured teaching methods have greatly motivated the students and improved the teaching effect.

Keywords: Automation control theory, Featured teaching, Teaching effect.

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Contemporary Issues in Education for Planning And Design of Urban Built Environment

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Abstract

Inappropriateness of the prevalent education for planning and design of urban built environment is reflected in inability of the planned efforts in solving the problems of cities and creating good quality of living environment in countries that are urbanizing at an unprecedented pace and scale. Further it is observed that over the last decade inspite of much more information readily available now and better technologies being developed constantly, holistic understanding and sensitivity of urban development issues and local context, and the innovative approach required are developed to a much lesser extent. Therefore an attempt is made to find out the most appropriate urban planning and design education model based on the critical evaluation of existing educational programs and pedagogic practices in various institutes offering planning and urban design education in India and feedback from professional experts. Academic programs with more emphasis on development of problem solving skills, integration of theory and practice, more interactive discussions and working on live contexts are found to result in more sensitive professionals capable of developing pragmatic solutions. Hence, education for planning and design of urban built environment should focus on developing problem solving skills, as well as, sensitivity to socio-cultural- environmental context and innovative thinking so as to be more relevant.

Keywords:

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Teacher Training through School-Based Program in Participatory Learning Promotion

Prawit Erawan, Mahasarakham University, Thailand.

Abstract

This research aims to study the learning of teachers and teaching behavior change of those trained to teach life skills and attitudes to AIDS prevention, to study factors and conditions of teacher development in training form through school-based program, and to create an indicator of success in teacher training through the School-based Program. The research is a kind of mixed method research treated by an investigation into the questionnaires of the samples including 22 educational supervisors, administrators and teachers under 22 school programs and 4 of which selected for participating observation, deep interview, and focus group. The results show that there are five factors effecting the efficacy of teacher training through school-based program: 1) readiness of the school, 2) external school factor, 3) good training plan, 4) training process, 5) supervision process of supervisors. The learning of teachers trained is classified into 4 phases: 1) Trial and error in teaching and learning activities through PL process, 2) Confronting classroom problems related to students' learning behaviors and teachers' teaching roles, 3) Improved knowledge and understanding on learning management process and 4) A change of teaching and learning behaviors to PL.

Keywords: Teacher Training, School-based Program, Mixed Method Evaluation

Enhancing students' interests in science and technology related careers through a specially designed optional course

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Abstract

It is generally recognised that science and technology education should play a more important role in developing students' awareness of, and positive attitudes towards, careers in science and technology. In order to address this concern, an optional course was designed and implemented in one Estonian gymnasium for 11th grade students (N=62). The aims of the course were to develop students' science knowledge through integrating different science disciplines with each other and with technology, engage students in issues related to the impact of science and technology on everyday life and develop students' ability to make responsible decisions related to these issues. Four learning modules developed by different partners within the framework of the EU FP7 project ESTABLISH were adapted and taught within the optional course. 11th grade students' interests in science and technology related careers were measured by means of a pre- and post- questionnaire. In addition, four students (two boys and two girls) were interviewed after the course for validation of the questionnaire.

 It was concluded that as a result of the course, students' raised their interests toward careers related to science and technology. This change was statistically significant for both, boys and girls, but was expressed more strongly by girls. Moreover, the learning units helped to broaden students' understanding about the diverse field of technology and how science and technology were interrelated. Based on the current study, it was planned to consolidate the design of the learning units by the study team.

Keywords: students' interests, careers related to science and technology, STS approach

Language and Culture: Components of A Sıngle Process

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Abstract

The authors of the article are teachers at the Center for the Study of Russian as a Foreign Language in Kazan, Russia. Here they share their collective experience of teaching a Russian course designed for a two-month program of Russian as a foreign language for American students. The article discusses methodological principles employed in the course, shares observations on language learning, gives examples of study plans, and analyzes the results of the program.

Keywords: linguistic-cultural approach, Russian as a foreign language, innovative methods, the principle of situational approach and novelty, the principles "from language facts to the facts of culture" and "from the facts of culture to the facts of language"

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Language Sıtuation in Modern Kazakhstan: Status, Characteristics and Development Prospects

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Kortabayeva Gulzhamal, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan.
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Abstract

This article attempts to give an overview of the language situation and language planning in Kazakhstan. Statistical data is given and excursion to history of languages in Kazakhstan is done. Particular emphasis is placed on the national- cultural component of the Kazakh people, namely the impact of the specificity of the Kazakh language on ethnic identity. Language is one of the basic aspects of national identity. Recently, in the Republic of Kazakhstan purposeful work on language development has been conducted. Optimal solution of language problems is a factor of interethnic relations harmonization, strengthening and consolidation of the peoples and public consent. Development of languages - one of the important directions of the state policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The problem of the state language, as part of national (civil) identification play a huge role in the successful integration process of Kazakh society. And quite rightly assume that one of the foundations of a new civic identity is knowing Kazakh language by all citizens of Kazakhstan. The article is an analysis of the language situation in Kazakhstan in close connection with the peculiarities of cultural identity.

Keywords: Kazakhstan, mentality, language policy, ethnolinguistics, language planning, language personality

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Using the ultimate natural laboratory to teach biodiversity and evolution by natural selection

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Abstract

The Galapagos Islands provide the ultimate natural laboratory for illustrating the amazing variety of flora and fauna that can develop in a relatively isolated location. While many educators use the Galapagos Islands to teach biodiversity and evolution, few venture with students to this incredible landscape. This paper discusses the development of a study abroad experience designed to enhance classroom instruction on the topics of biodiversity and evolution by natural selection. Students began in the classroom, learning about the natural history of the islands, Charles Darwin, natural selection, speciation, and the diverse flora and fauna of the Galapagos. During the trip abroad, students followed in Darwin's footsteps, discovering the new world around them. They kept a detailed journal documenting everything they observed, just as Darwin did. Students gained essential skills that allow them to think like scientists: making observations, forming questions, and developing research projects with real world implications. Upon return to the classroom, students discussed their experiences and the impact their travels had on them, and completed coursework. While the use of a natural laboratory is not a completely novel approach to teaching, this experience is different than others described in the literature because it was developed as part of an interdisciplinary set of courses designed to provide insight into the various aspects of both the natural and social sciences. In addition to the course described here, this summer experience included courses in the culture of Ecuador, environmental psychology and field methods, which provided an exceptionally well rounded learning experience for students and educators alike by demonstrating how these areas complement one another in such a way as to provide a more complete understanding of the world around us.

Keywords: Study abroad, experiential learning, Galapagos Islands, natural selection, evolution, biodiversity

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Comparıson of Adult Education Policies in Turkey and European Union

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Abstract

The lifelong learning a reality by the European Commission defines lifelong learning as all learning activities undertaken throughout life, with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competences within a personal, civic, social and/or employment-related perspective. The aim of this article is to review the effect of factors that cause globalisation on behalf of education and inter-cultural relations within the context adult education between Turkey and European Union Countries. In addition, the effects of globalization on adult education are considered through making conceptual analysis of the social change in educational concept.

Keywords: Education, adult and continuing education, European Union, lifelong learning

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Commonly Done Mistakes by Teachers for Practical and Written Examination in Vocational Education

Koray Şener Parlak,Fırat University, Turkey.

Abstract

In Turkey states universities, high school students have to pass practical and written exams such as the final exams. In this study, relation of between course subject and questions were analyzed for the second-class electronics program students.

Keywords: vocational training, defect question.

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Stressful Life Events: Does the economic crisis increase the perceived stress of the undergraduate students? The case of Greece

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Abstract

The purpose of the current study was to identify whether Greek undergraduate students realized increased stress levels in 2013 compared to 2009 due to the economic crisis. The USQ-83 instrument was used to assess the commonness and the severity of the undergraduate perceived levels of stress related to college and non college activities. Demographic variables like gender, year of study, place of residence and economic status were considered. The main differences between the years 2009 and 2013 were identified. The participants were 223 undergraduate students of Business Administration Department for the year 2009, and 200 for 2013. A multiple linear regression analysis was applied and all necessary tests have been performed in order to fully validate the results. Regarding commonness and severity, females, seniors and students with low family income perceived higher levels of stress in relation to college and non college activities for both years, noting that more acute stress was observed for 2013. Students living at the local town, away from their families, realized high levels of stress only for 2013. The results indicate that the policy makers and the academic staff should consider developing a suitable and efficient stress management program which is necessary for reducing stress and its negative effects due to economic crisis.

Keywords: Undergraduate Stress Questionnaire (USQ), perceived stress, students, college activities, economic crisis, low family income.

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IndexesMeasuring of quality in the context of e-learning

Martin Misut, Faculty of Education, Department of Mathematics and Informatics, Trnava University in Trnava, Slovakia.

Katarina Pribilova, Faculty of Education, Department of Mathematics and Informatics, Trnava University in Trnava, Slovakia.

Abstract

For the purpose of clarity and consistency, the term e-learning is used throughout the paper to refer to technology-enhanced learning. This paper describes selected aspects of implementation model, which aims at the improvement and complex assurance of quality and cost efficiency in the context of e-learning. Within described project a complex quality assurance method, based on a model for quality assessment of e-learning – ELQ, has been proposed and verified. A modified Kirkpatrick Evaluating Four Level Model has been used for evaluation of quality of blended learning. After implementation of described models, experimental data has been collected and analyzed. These will drive direction for future improvements.

Keywords: e-learning quality, project; Kirkpatrick model.

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They Are Learning: Changes through Teacher Professional Development of Inquiry Curriculum Design and Implementation

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Abstract

The main goal of this High Scope Project centered on analyzing how the targeted vocational high-school teachers disenthralled themselves from the traditional settings to think and act anew during the inquiry curriculum design and implementation process. Ten teachers of a vocational high-school in southern Taiwan participated in this process and worked cooperatively with the theme of "Mechatronic" intelligent robot. A professional development program provided by the university research team was developed based on inquiry framework for equipping these teachers in designing the curriculum. Data were collected qualitatively and then analyzed by immersion and editing analytic techniques. After receiving the one-year professional development, a qualitative analysis on the targeted group of teachers' inquiry curriculum design process. According to the data analyses, three themes regarding this inquiry curriculum development process were extracted about the progress of their conceptions and actions, where each theme had its own developmental focus: curriculum structure, content design, and instructional design. The findings showed that these teachers progressively moved from more teacher-centered thoughts to student-centered actions incorporating inquiry. They also worked together in designing and implementing an inquiry curriculum leading to a success of disenthralling the traditional standard-based and subject-matter trammels, which truly furnished their students' learning with an interdisciplinary inquiry environment and obtained admirable outcomes. Implications derived from findings and discussions were proposed for the future study of implementing the designed curriculum and promoting teachers' continuous growth.

Keywords: Curriculum Design, Inquiry, Teacher Professional Development

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Specific Consonant Sounds of Kazakh And English Languages

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Abstract
Sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics which studies different aspects of language, they are phonetics, lexic and grammar with reference of their social functions in the society. The aim is to explain language phenomena in connection with factors of language and in terms of large-scale social structure and how people use language to communicate each another.
Keywords: language communication, Kazakh and English vowels, pronunciation

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The Higher Education Financing System: the Case of Latvia

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Abstract
The aim of the present article is to evaluate the higher education financing system and to consider the opportunities for improvement of the higher education financing model in Latvia. To reach this aim, the authors have analyzed the sources of direct and indirect financing of higher education establishments in Latvia and the conditions for allocation of financial resources. Investigating the higher education financing model, the existing model has been analyzed, which comprises a range of baseline costs. It has been concluded that in order to improve the financing model of the Latvian higher education system, it should be reoriented towards increasing performance efficiency and effectiveness of higher education establishments.

Having conducted the present research, the authors have come to the conclusion that the higher education financing model of the Latvian state higher education establishments should be mainly based on the state funding. It is also necessary to develop and elaborate the system according to which higher education establishments will have to perform internal proportional allocation of funds.
Keywords: Higher education, financing system, Latvia.

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Corporate Governance and Tax Management Practices

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Abstract
Taxation play an essential role both in a country and in a corporation. To minimize the tax payment, corporation conduct a corporate tax management. According to some of previous research, there is a correlation between corporate governance and corporate tax management. In this research we are focusing on three: number of board, number of independent board and board compensation. We measure corporate tax management by using effective tax rate (GAAP ETR and current ETR are used in this research). By using several other control variables, we found that corporate governance have a significant correlation to corporate tax management.
Keywords: Corporate governance; tax management; number of board; independent board; board compensation.

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Interactive Whiteboards Integration into Music Teaching and Learning: Preschool Children as a Case Study

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Abstract

This comparative research paper contrasts use of interactive whiteboards (IWB) and older methods of teaching to examine the effect of both upon children's learning attitude and level of achievement. It extends the existing literature by addressing three key questions: 1.What are the advantages of integrating IWB into musical teaching as compared to teaching without this technology? 2. How does IWB integration into music teaching affect children's learning attitude and learning effectiveness? 3. How do the differences between the use of IWB integration into music teaching compare when contrasted with learning and teaching outcomes achieved without IWB use? This study was conducted across two preschool classrooms in a regional daycare center in Taiwan. Classes were held as a 'one off' 50 minute lesson for the purposes of the experiment. One classroom used IWB and the other used older training methods. The research method entailed observational analysis of children's musical activity and a Likert Scale checklist was utilized to measure children's attitude towards music learning and their level of musical achievement. The participants included two head teachers, fourteen children, and four aides spread across both classrooms. Additional data were collected at the conclusion of the lesson via in depth interviews with the two classroom teachers. These interviews were intended to elicit evidence of perceived attitudinal change and validation of learning efficiency. The program of music activities used in this study offered multiple opportunities for children to improve their attitudes in the classroom while also acquiring musical skills. The results of this research showed that children are capable of increasing their own level of engagement and acquiring high achievement during individual, peer, or group play in a structured setting that is overseen by a professional. IWB and traditional methods of teaching both proved effective: it was the teacher's pedagogy, rather than technology per se, that brought about the benefits.

Keywords: interactive whiteboard; attitude; high achievement; music; early childhood education

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Assessment of Higher Education Financing Models in the CEE Countries

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Abstract

The aim of the present article is to analyze higher education financing models and their characteristics in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (the CEE countries).

To obtain research results, the authors have analyzed the existing higher education financing models of each CEE country. In the course of research, the authors have developed the formulas that most comprehensively characterize the financing policy and its specific features of each higher educational establishment in the CEE countries. The existing differences in the higher education establishment financing models in the CEE countries regarding state direct and indirect financing have been discovered. Differences in the volume of financial support, study crediting systems, and tuition fees in different CEE countries have also been identified. However, despite the differences in the sources of direct and indirect financing observed in the CEE countries, numerous common mid-term tasks have been set, such as: 1) increase of the state funding for higher education; 2) granting of larger autonomy in financial resource management; 3) ensuring of direct correlation between performance results and the allocated funding; 4) promotion of diversification of the sources of finance, as well as establishment of cooperation among research institutions, enterprises and municipalities.

The authors have concluded that higher education establishments in the CEE countries should purposefully improve the efficiency of financial management systems, in such a way approaching the level of the leading EU and world universities in the globalized economy.

Keywords: Higher education, financing system, financing models, CEE

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The Retention Rate of Students in Mathematics Education

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Abstract

Have you ever wondered why a lot of students cannot continue mathematics when taught? Have you ever wondered why students get so frustrated when doing math? As we all know, this field is very detailed to the point where if you are not careful any problem can have flaws. Could a person who lacks detail-orientation learn the discipline of mathematics? How does a person keep this area? There could be a lot of factors that play into the failure of retention in this area. Is there some mental block from learning science? Is there a learning disability in some students? Is the field of mathematics not their forte'? Are students intimidated by this field? There is a statement that students use all of the time which is, and I quote, "Mathematics is another language to me," "Mathematics is scary looking", and "I do not like mathematics because I do not understand it." Could it be that some professors are not teaching students correctly? Would it be that students are paying for what they have not paid attention to in grade school? How does a professor get a student who is not interested in math to become interested enough at least to learn the basics? I consider this field of infinite applications and must know where it applies in various areas. It seems that the mathematics is the branch of knowledge that a lot of students do not seem to grasp like the other fields. Why is this the case? As we discuss this matter in the article, we shall see what could be the reasons behind this hindrance.

Keywords:

Upper Secondary Schools Students' progression in operational scientific skills – a comparison between grades 10 and 12

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Priit Reiska, Institute of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Tallinn University.

Abstract

The goal of this study is to investigate upper secondary students' learning progression in operational scientific skills over a 3 year period, where operational scientific skills is taken to mean utilizing science knowledge and skills, particularly with relevance to creative problem solving and making reasoned decision in real life situations and covers giving scientific explanation, solving scientific problems and socio-scientific making decisions. Data collection is by using an interdisciplinary contextualized instrument designed based on real life related items following the SOLO taxonomy. Data from of 1128 10th grade students and 764 12th grade students from 44 representative Estonian schools show that there was no expected shift in optional skills between grades on all items. For some items, the number of students giving maximal response is similar and in general, grade 12 students give better responses to items requiring problem solving and making decision. For example related to decision-making, 5,3% of students in 10th grade give maximal responses, while in grade 12 this percentage is 11,4 %. Nevertheless, this indicates that school leaver outcomes are not high. It can be suggested that changes are needed in upper secondary science education to ensure students give more appropriate responses related to problem solving and decision making items.

Keywords:

Transformative Pedagogy: being and becoming

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Abstract
This paper examines an original construct, transformative pedagogy, from psychological and philosophical perspectives. The study refers to the literature and to findings in the context of three international studies carried out by the author. A key challenge for teaching and learning in the Irish post-primary (high school) context is that a 'banking' model dominates the educational project. Teachers, pupils and wider society have a tacit expectation that education is primarily about preparing pupils for passing public examinations. The focus of transformative pedagogy is in creating conditions that support teacher and pupils in developing a new identity, and capacity, as well as in bringing about sustainable improvement in themselves and their school community, and by implication, wider society. Teacher and pupils are understood as whole persons (participants). Transformative Pedagogy seeks to create conditions that support students and teachers in experiencing, interacting, reflecting and integrating, change in the narrative of their biography. Learning is understood as a holistic process that supports self-discovery and self-awareness and by implication, the capacity for personal, professional and social transformation.
There are eight key principles underpinning the new curriculum: quality, creativity and innovation, engagement and participation, continuity and development, wellbeing, choice and flexibility, inclusive education, and learning to learn (A Framework for Junior Cycle, DES, 2012, p.4). While these principles support transformative pedagogy, it is underpinned by human values as well: truthfulness, sincerity, respect, equality, and social justice. Seven key elements form the transformative pedagogic dynamic: 1) Knowledge, 2) Beliefs, 3) Socio-affective factors, 4) Metacognition, 5) Social interaction, 6) Formative assessment, 7) engagement in society.
Keywords:

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Students' self-efficacy and values based on a 21st century vision of scientific literacy – a pilot study

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Regina Soobard, Tartu Univesity, Science Education Centre, Estonia.
Priit Reiska, Tallinn University, Institute of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Estonia.
Jack Holbrook, University of Tartu, Faculty of Science and Technology, Estonia.

Abstract
The 21st century world in which we live is much different than that which has been experienced in the past 75 years. The biggest shift has been replacing "manpower" with the modern digital technology which surrounds us in our every-day life. And with this there has been a shift in the skills, attributes and even values needed. The people, who are needed in 21st century labor market need to be able to connect through new technology, having inquiry skills and integrated knowledge. Also they need to be able to collaborate with others, think critically, able to control and manage their working and thinking and have skills for living in the world like awareness about their personal and social responsibility and ability to feel compassion and respect to other human beings and life all over the world. The main goal of education should be to cater for this shift in student needs and also to provide students with such skills that will be needed for success in a global market. As such, this study is geared towards measuring students' self-efficacy in different skills and values associated with scientific literacy and even more, exploring the degree to which students value the importance of these skills and values so as to be successful in their future careers. This study (students` self-efficacy) is also one part of a wider project: Science literacy as a factor of career choice for gymnasium student (LoteGüm). The goals of this project are to work out a guide to help develop and assess students` scientific literacy and further make suggestions for modernizing the scientific curriculum and changing learning and teaching of scientific subjects to be more relevance for students and also for teachers.
Keywords: scientific literacy, self-efficacy; 21st century skills

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Critical Discourse Analysis as an Interdisciplinary Research Methodology for Interdisciplinary, Intercultural and an Inter-Institutional Assessment Tool for Student-Perceived Learning (SPL) compared with Instructor-Perceived Teaching (IPT) of Interdiscipl

Regina Williams Davis,Interim Chair, Department of Liberal Studies with Foreign Languages College of Arts & Sciences North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, United States.

Abstract

Examining perceived effectiveness of learning objectives and outcomes from a pluralistic view using critical discourse analysis (CDA) will produce analytics from language, discourse practices, and discursive events. Although traditional assessment methods of student learning objectives and outcomes provide feedback regarding learning objectives, results are one-dimensional, often ignore diverse learning styles, lack interdisciplinary synthesis, and rarely consider diverse cultural frameworks of students and instructors. Reasons for assessing student-perceived learning and instructor-perceived teaching of Interdisciplinary Online Courses include (a) the perceptions that are often held as notions of truth, are promoted as truths; (b) student perceived-learning is analogous to a consumer's perceived-value of a service; and most importantly, (c) learning outcome-assessment is the measurement for institutional effectiveness.

Keywords:

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The impact of parental involvement, personality traits and organizational support on satisfaction
The case of women primary school teachers

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Layla Al-Rashidi, Primary school science teacher in Kuwait

Abstract

Internationally, there are a large number of studies on the factors that influence job satisfaction of school teachers. Nevertheless, in the Arabian Gulf region and specifically in the state of Kuwait, studies on school teachers, their job satisfaction, or factors that influence their level of job satisfaction is scarce. In this context, it is believed that school teachers' role in the educational system is increasingly important, as it is responsible for the basic and critical education of the future workforce of any country.

The proposed studied model argues that there are a number of factors that influence job satisfaction of school teachers including; Parental Involvement, Personality Trait (Extraversion and Agreeableness) and Organizational Support (Professional development, Workload and Distribution of Justice). This research uses a deductive approach and is quantitative in nature using a questionnaire as a data collection instrument. The targeted sample is women primary school teachers working in Al-Jahra educational region in the state of Kuwait.

Key results found that parental involvement, agreeableness, professional development and distribution justice are factors that significantly influence the level of school teachers' job satisfaction. Others findings indicate significant differences between nationalities and marital status of teachers when perceiving workload, distributive justice and satisfaction.

Keywords: job satisfaction, parental involvement, extraversion, agreeableness, organizational support, distribution of justice, workload and professional development

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Online behaviour of social media participants' and perception of trust, comparing social media brand community groups and associated organized marketing strategies.

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Abstract
The purpose of this study was to assess social media participants' perception of similarities and differences of the authenticity and trustworthiness of online advertising versus the authenticity and trustworthiness of respective online brand communities. We were looking at brand communities associated with Social Media that were formed on the basis of specific products or services. We further aimed to assess the trust individual participants in those brand communities obtain in contrast to information provided by companies and their marketing and public relations strategies. Our research then went beyond this comparative discussion in order to assess differences and similarities among individuals across different cultures. We believe that the connection between consumers may be stronger and perceived as equally or more trustworthy than the 'traditional' connection between an individual consumer and the information portrayed in marketing or public relations strategies by the company itself. We further believe that cultural differences in perceptions of trust may be minimal or non-existent.

Keywords: Social meadia, social networking, social networking sites brands and advertizing.

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The Mathematics of a Black Hole

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Abstract
In a black hole gravity and S.T.E.M. (Space Time Energy and Matter) are topologically equivalant and undergoes shperical eversion.

Keywords:

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Students' perceived satisfaction and achievement and absorption capacity in the private higher education

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Abstract
Education plays a vital role in the national development of any country and worldwide it is considered as one of the most important industries. Assessing students' satisfaction and achievement and absorption capacity are critical not only for the students themselves and their academic institutions but also for the business industry who are potential recruiters of these same students. Being aware of students' absorption capacity significantly guide organizations in improving and enhancing the process of the required training for newly employed people. From an institution point of view, the academic outcome of students generally determines the quality of any educational establishment and gives it a competitive edge. Although universities attempt to increase their students' level of satisfaction by improving student's retention, it is often argued that it would be more effective if they highlight the strategic importance of social value and demonstrate the way they have helped their students in achieving their objectives.
The objective of this study is to examine the factors which may influence students' satisfaction and the academic achievement and absorption capacity. The research specially focuses on business diploma students in a Kuwaiti private college. The methodology used is quantitative and collected information from 146 students.

Key results indicate that program, teaching methods and image and reputation variables significantly influence students' satisfaction level. Achievement and absorption capacity was found to be significantly influenced by students' participation, satisfaction, teaching methods and programs. The only significant service quality dimension which seems to have a direct impact on most students is the tangible dimension. Moreover, High GPA score holders have shown higher level of achievements and satisfaction than those with lower results in the studied college.

Keywords: Students' satisfaction, academic achievement, absorption capacity, academic outcome, academic performance, business diploma students

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A Comparison of Transferable Skills Development in Estonian School Biology at Gymnasium level

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Abstract

The goal of science education no longer relates to obtaining as much knowledge as possible, but rather to gain the skills of transferring the obtained knowledge into new situations. This is the core essence of contextual learning as promoted in the Estonian gymnasium curriculum. It is expected to raise the relevance and motivation of students, especially if presented in a socio-scientific issue mode related to everyday life. But is it being promoted? In order to investigate the development of such transferrable skills at the Estonian Gymnasium level (10th and 11th grade), research is conducted in 44 different representative schools with 1116 of 10th grade and 932 of 11th grade students (N=2048).

The research instrument was based on a socio-scientific contextual situation of lactose intolerance that is seen as relevant and motivating topic in Nordic countries and consisted of 8 tasks that presumed to test the abilities of transferring the biology knowledge into new, everyday situation. The tasks were designed to measure the following aspects: (1) biological content knowledge, (2) reasoning skills, (3) divergent thinking (creativity) skills, (4) problem solving skills (3 tasks) and (5) socio-scientific decision making skills.

Results revealed that the new curriculum focusing on the development of students' competencies has not yet had a considerable effect. The statistical analysis of ANOVA revealed that the mean results of 11th grade students are statistically significantly increased only within three tasks: content knowledge (F=7,244; p=0,007), divergent thinking skills (F=10,410; p=0,001) and in one of the problem solving tasks (F=5,593; p=0,018), but the real increase of results was not meaningful in a pedagogical sense as the increases were, respectively, 0,06; 0,10 and 0,05 from the 3 point scale.

Result further indicated that the students' ability to transfer their biological knowledge into new situations was quite poor (mean results of transferable skills tasks varied from 1,32 to 2,38) and they did not increased significantly during the one year studies in gymnasium.

Keywords: transferable skills, lactose intolerance, school biology, scientific literacy

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Vertical Education Enhancement – A Model for Enhancing STEM Education and Research

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Abstract

The Vertical Education Enhancement (VEE) model is developed to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and research to meet new challenges in a dynamic global environment. It integrates the vertical levels of career progression that is built on 1) a curriculum that adapts to needs of present and emerging markets, 2) community outreach and collaborations/partnerships with industry and government sectors, and 3) research and grants. The model uses periodic assessment and continuous improvement process to ensure success. Recent results include 80% of graduates taking jobs in STEM fields, full accreditation of two engineering technology programs, and increased funding.

Keywords: Vertical education, STEM education and research, accreditation, nuclear education, periodic assessment, continuous improvement

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Changes in cognitive skills during a gymnasium chemistry course

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Abstract

The ability to solve problems is one of the key competences in science education and in everyday life situations. In this study, problem solving skills among 10th and 11th grade students were examined. The sample was formed from a sample of grade 10 and grade 11 students. The grade 10 students represent the age group one year above the PISA sample tested (OECD, 2007) and were tested as they were just beginning their gymnasium level studies, while the grade 11 students, tested at the end of the school year, had finished all compulsory chemistry courses. A validated instrument was developed to measure problem solving competence relevant to real life situations in order to keep student motivation to answer the questions high. All items, however, focused on chemistry but were interdisciplinary in character. Findings indicate that skills, related to applying knowledge in a new situation, were higher for 11th grade students' compared to responses from the 10th grade students. Unfortunately, there was no statistically significant difference amongst other components of problem solving skills between grade 10 and grade 11 students. Based on findings, a three-component model (supportive skills, problem defining and problem solving procedure skills) was created. However, confirmed by factor analysis model, a statistically significant correlation was only found between the second and third component in the model.

Keywords:

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Use of Global Distance Education Program in Educational Goals of Airline

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Abstract
Recently there has been an explosive growth in online distance learning that is rapidly transforming traditional learning habits with the more recent ones that use the latest technology. As establishments nowadays are conscious of the necessity for being more integrative and innovative compared to past, they question about the need to change management mentality in order to survive in a competitive market. Perceiving human as a value and important valuable asset, directors of organizations look for the ways of changing of qualifications in workforce. In order to accomplish this change they need to alter the organization's training applications in order to ensure their own survival.

Today, organizations tend to improve and gain from the managers from their own resources by different approaches. As time and financial resources are restricted the newest technologies help them in succeeding this aim. Global distance education is one of the easiest supporters in this regard.

In this study the historical developments of Turkish airlines (THY) are reviewed shortly. Then, current position of global distance education in THY is highlighted. In this context, Turkish Airlines (THY) and Management Trainee Program of THY are taken as sample. "Harvard ManageMentor" is being used for training purposes in Turkish Airlines and the researcher has aimed to explain how this program is being implemented in Turkish Airlines in detail, how the Harvard ManageMentor program corresponds to the needs of THY educational goals.

Keywords: Airline, distance learning, education of managers

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The Worst Teaching Mistakes in Vocational Education

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Abstract
The aim of this study is the worst teaching mistakes identification on education in vocational and training high school. Specified questionnaires to reach this aim are applied to 300 students and 35 lecturers for definition these mistakes. Additionally, examination results and some feedbacks from training course and employer are taken into consideration to evaluate mistakes. In the evaluation process only common comments and results are selected.

Keywords: vocational training, lecturer mistakes

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Education Coupled with Entrepreneurial Process Approach Towards Sustainable Development

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Abstract
Education coupled with entrepreneurship is an intricate sustainable educational process towards sustainable development that is needed to eradicate poverty from the emerging enterprise spirit. Sustainable educational process is a kind of development process that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability, efficiency and values of the future generations to meet their own needs[1]. This process deals with series of actions to be implemented from the emerging enterprise spirit in order to eradicate poverty. Their outputs are international and national educational services which are provided to beneficiaries and thus there must be concerned to quantity and quality management. A person who sets up an enterprise (or business activity) and runs successfully is an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurial process is set of entrepreneurial activities interacting and inter-relating each other. That is quality in terms of relevance and degree of academic

excellence and quantity in terms of number of things access to these activities. There is a challenge indeed for internationalization and nationalization of this service by our educational sector with relevant to the current and projected needs of our society and industries[2]. Their academic potential, credibility and excellence shall grow with respect to time. The ideas and ideals of the educational institutions evolve and change with special reference to current trends of international and national requirements. Education coupled with entrepreneurial process is an intricate process which must adopt an open, transparent and efficient approach in order to supply value added knowledgeable trained human power to meet the above requirements. Both quality and quantity management depend up on strong updated curriculum and syllabus, efficient teaching-learning process, performance evaluation, productivity of faculty, staff and students, research and development, consultancy and extension, students' support and progression, educational innovations, enhancement strategies, plans for institutional growth, feedback from stake holders, innovations in institutional development, management information system(MIS) , and information communication technology (ICT)[19]. In this research paper an approach has been discussed for education coupled with entrepreneurship which is an intricate process may need for sustainable development . Based upon this research, concept of total quality management (TQM) in an education sector may be implemented as the present quality assurance mechanisms are not providing efficient results to the beneficiaries. It is also need of the hour to include entrepreneurship, environmental science and sustainable development subjects in curriculum of all the professional courses for better quality life.

Keywords:

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Modernization and education of "digital" generation

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Abstract
The main idea of President`s Message of recent years to the Kazakhstan nation is a social-economic modernization. The term "modernization" has been constantly presenting in the topic of Message for the last two years. These  Messages confirm the importance of the idea of modernization for Kazakhstan`s state system`s effective functioning. Social-economic modernization provides for essential advancement of the role of human capital. One of the main factors of reconstituting of human capital along with financial, social resources is a model of educational system i.e. schools and universities.
Talking of country`s modernization, we should not forget the circumstance that the decision of this task is indeed an ideally complex program of different generation of the citizens of our country. Different generations have their own values, life principles, considering them might contribute to the success of modernization`s strategy.
It`s not a secret that effective cooperation with representatives of different generations is a real proof for organization managers of educational structures. Because the different generations in schools and universities collide with each other with their values, expectations, ambitions, furthermore involved to contemporary world of digital technologies by different way. If teachers have a high level of so-called "computer anxiety", coming from insufficient functional digital illiteracy of their generation, their mentees are entirely involved in screen culture, into the world of unbelievable variety of gadgets. Therefore, this circumstance will require the development of the innovational educational technologies and creating of new scripts of lessons to the teachers.
Immediate development of electronic education by educational organizations, radical change of the system of advanced training will finally be directed at minimizing the digital inequality between the teacher as digital emigrant and mentee as digital aborigines. Then, only in that case, one of the barriers will be removed, which prevents the successful interaction in educational process and education of upcoming generation.

Keywords:

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Advantages of Anterior Cervical Discectomy

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Abstract
Background: The purpose of this study is to evaluate anterior cervical discectomy. Materials and Methods: This retrospective study was conducted on 43 patients underwent surgery through standard Smith-Robison Technique with fusion. Postoperative follow-up period was 24 months. Clinical assessment was done through Odom criteria, Neck disability index and VAS for neck pain. Results: According to Odom criteria, patients after surgery had more than 80% acceptable satisfaction. Based on Neck disability index and VAS, patients had significantly improved. Before surgery, none of the participating patients had lack of disability or mild disability. The most common indicator in these patients was severe disability which was observed in 34 cases (79.1%). After surgery, no one had complete disability while mild disability was the most common indicator among 20 patients (46.5%). The successful fusion rate was 95%. The most common symptom was neck pain and sensory disorder was the most prevalent sign. The most common level involved was C5-6. Medium-term of medical treatment was 4.5 months. The main causes of surgery were motor defect and neck pain. Conclusion: Due to the possibility of complete discectomy and complete removal of compression, anterior surgery approach is preferred over posterior one.

Keywords: Advantage, Cervical discectomy, Anterior Approach

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Influence of Prenatal and Postnatal Developmental Experıences on Learner's School Achievement, Perception of Nigeria Resident Educational Psychologists

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Abstract
This study is concerned with finding out the perception of Nigeria resident Educational psychologists towards the influence of prenatal and postnatal developmental experiences on learner's school achievement. 100 Educational Psychologists were randomly selected from the South West zone of Nigeria as the sample for the study. A self designed research instrument titled 'Developmental Experiences and School Achievement (DESA)' was used in collecting data for the study. The face and content validities of the instrument were ascertained by giving the copies to test experts for scrutiny and restructuring. The reliability was also ensured using split half formula. The research question raised in the study was answered using percentages while the three null hypotheses generated were tested using t-test statistics at 0.05 level of significance. Findings from the study revealed that the perception of Nigeria resident Educational Psychologists towards the influence of prenatal and postnatal developmental experiences on learner's school achievement is positive. The result also revealed that demographic factors like gender, educational background and tribal difference did not influence the Educational Psychologists in their perception. It was therefore recommended that parents, caregivers and other stake holders in child development should be conscious of their environments and action particularly at the gamete and the foetal stages of cell development. Also, the neonatal via the early adolescence developmental stages during which the brain develops should be handled with caution by the stake holders.

Keywords: Perception, Prenatal, Postnatal, Experiences.

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Psychological States of College Students- An Empirical Study

Archita Bhalotia,

Abstract

Purpose- The purpose of this research dissertation was to explore eight mood states among college students and to identify the prevalence of each among them.

Objectives- To evaluate the prevalent mood states among undergraduate students through a standardized questionnaire.

To recommend suggestions for appropriate interventions to help students manage their moods and emotions to the state of normalcy, if found any.

Design-Methodology-Approach- This paper as an exploratory research studies the eight primary psychological states namely, anxiety, stress, depression, regression, fatigue guilt, extraversion and arousal. On a sample of one hundred undergraduate students randomly selected from two Indian universities were examined through the use of a Standardized questionnaire called the Eight State Questionnaire by Curran and Cattell. It was a onetime non gender bias study. The age of students ranged from 18 to 22 years. The data collected from these samples was further noted and analysed by calculating the norms and statistical inferences.

Findings- After analysing the data collected from the samples, it was found that the highest number of students experienced anxiety as a mood while they were filling the questionnaire. This inference was made according to the norms calculated through the Mean and Standard Deviation values calculated for each state. The lowest number of students found in the high category was in the mood state of stress.

Keywords: Mood/Psychological States, Anxiety, Stress, Depression, Regression, Fatigue, Guilt, Arousal, Extraversion, Eight State Questionnaire, College Students.

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The effect of Indian Classical music on Stress level of college students

Archita Bhalotia,

Abstract

Purpose- The purpose of this research paper is to verify the effect of Indian Classical music on the level of stress in college students through an intervention study using a Perceived Stress Scale Questionnaire by Sheldon Cohen. Design/ Methodology/ Approach- This paper reports on an empirically tested intervention model of Indian classical music as a therapy on a sample size of 30 college students over a period of one month. The change in stress level of college students was measured using a standardized psychometric instrument through pre-post experimental method. The 'Perceived Stress Scale' questionnaire by Sheldon Cohen was used. The Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) is the most widely used psychological instrument for measuring the perception of stress. It is a measure of the degree to which situations in one's life are appraised as stressful. Items were designed to tap how unpredictable, uncontrollable, and overloaded respondents find their lives. The scale also includes a number of direct queries about current levels of experienced stress. Findings-.Using statistical analysis (change in mean value) the null hypothesis was rejected and the mean results of pre-post data suggested that Indian classical music had positive effect on reducing stress level of college students.

Practical Implications- Indian classical music can widely be used for therapeutic purposes in universities, work places, etc. It certainly helps in reducing the stress in people by calming them down. Students could be exposed to such music as a part of their daily schedule for better efficiency and productivity.

Originality/ Value- The following study could add immense value and originality to a large group of various stakeholders. According to a study (Hye Sook Shin, 2010) music therapy not only impacts stress levels of college students but it also helps pregnant women, people with life threatening diseases, employees, patients at hospitals, and likewise. The results from this study also lay an importance on the training needs for stress management in academic courses, which can be designed on the basis of more thorough understanding of the stressors for college students.

Keywords: Stress, Indian Classical Music, College students.

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Tradition or Modernity? Sitting Philosophy for Children within the African Outlook

Dr Amasa Ndofirepi,

Abstract

In this philosophical paper I investigate into the project of doing philosophy with children in Africa. While the Philosophy for Children programme has its roots in the Anglo-Saxon world, it is my case that it can sit well in Africa by giving it an African outlook. I venture into the currency of the post-colonial and the Africanisation agenda in education by exploring the plausibility of a uniquely 'African' Philosophy for Children. I argue that forany philosophy to be African, it should be a product of an amalgamation of the traditional and the modern in order to epitomisethe 21st century African existential conditions

Keywords:

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Fundamental Dimensions and Interventions for Women Empowerment through Higher Education: A Narrative Inquiry

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Mazhar Hussain,
Sumara Ishaq,

Abstract

This article addresses the fundamental dimensions and interventions for women empowerment through higher education. Firstly this paper describes that the women empowerment may be understood as enabling women to acquire and possess power resources, in order to make decision on their own or resist decisions that are made by others that affect them. It is one of the ways to remove the existing gender discrimination by providing equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities to women. Higher Education is the basic tool for empowering women, and this is particularly striking among women from deprived economic and social backgrounds. After addressing the importance of women empowerment, this paper identifies and assesses potential dimensions of getting women empowerment. These dimensions are many and varied but fundamental are physical, intellectual, social, emotional, moral and vocational. Physical dimension, primarily dealing with awareness about sex education, reproductive knowledge, and nutrition; intellectual dimensions include the inducement of critical thinking, decision making and being self- reliant through higher education. In cultural terms social, emotional and moral dimensions can be considered in higher education ranging from ability to communicate to be assertive and uphold of women's legal rights, to the handling of various conflicts which she subjected at home, in society and at work place, while the moral dimension will help her to maintain balance between culture and modern transformations. Similarly in the context of vocational dimension of women empowerment, proper guidance can be given to women so that they must not constrained by the prevailing gender stereotypes in their respective societies. Based on these dimensions, two major interventions are concluded, which must considered in Higher education sector to empower women, first intervention is academic intervention ,which emphasis that there is a need of curriculum reform and reconstruction on proper lines and active participation of educationalists and education planner from higher education sector, second one is co-curricular interventions which can be implemented by various activities of the academic associations, university clubs and societies. These interventions will only work if they are a part of a much broader national wide mobilization that has ambitious goals to ensure that women fully and equally participate in all aspects of economic, social and political development.

Keywords:

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Talking Trees

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Abstract

Artistic productions any longer can not go beyond being an attempt for keeping a neverending cycle of being substantiated at the same studios and galleries and remained at the same media. Changes initiated by modernism have reversed a variety of equilibria up to now. That seems to be rooted from the fact that 'creation' concept is getting shaped as being rooted from sociability and concluded in individual, not the opposite as it is widely confessed. The success of the monuments created in recent years is appeared as in proportion with its conceptual quality. Considering their variety of materials, sizes and exhibiting spaces, it is insignificant to deny the importance of these components in the perception and interpretation processes about the monument. The effects of globalization that are gradually being positioned in cultural, social and psychological areas; are being recognized radipdly in the environment. Through the perspective of urban art, establishing communication and interaction with a mass of audience seems to embark a central importance. In conjuction with this statement, the places that can host this relation most intensely, appears to be urban areas. Aiming to highlight the dynamic structure of space – business relationship, this literate study scrutinizes the significant connection settled up with space in course of the deployment of artistic studies through public spaces, by positioning human spirit at the center. Through the goals of this study, it is also aimed to cover the details constituting a practice of visual and performance arts and the implementation outputs. Through the selection of the activity space within the scope of the environmental project 'Talking Trees'; the criteria of 'being natural structured', 'silence' and 'quietness' are considered. By this way, ensuring the service of the physical structure of the space to the interests of the study is provided, as well as emphasizing the transitional structure of business – space relationship at the same time. The departure point of the proposal is a shamanistic belief sheltering the religion settled on the spirits of trees . It is aimed to present this intangible phenomenon to human sensibility by the halp of a basic material. The trees as the elements of the defined space are also positioned as the raw material of the design. By the help of the used material and by the effect of the wind, a voice that can be recognised by human ear, is obtained. The basic principle of the 'Talking Trees' project is built upon the idea of humanizing trees or building up an emphatic bond between human and trees. It can also be stated as originating an interactive media by setting up an intricate structure between human and plant in nature. By this study, it could be possible to witness communication styles including common processes as perception, recognition, reminiscence, sense, agreement and learning; as well as experiencing judgemental reasoning and mental conflicts.

Keywords:

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Assessing the teacher's performance in the light of using Authentic Assessment on learning Islamic Education on secondary school

Yahya A Ali, University of Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

Abstract

A major problem of educational system in K.S.A is the fact that there are gaps between teaching in school and the real world and between assessment tasks and what occurs in the world of work. The goal of this study is to determine the facets of authentic assessment by examining if the elements proposed in the authentic assessment are recognized in teaching practice of Islamic Education courses among secondary school teachers. To achieve this aim, the previous studies were analyzed to set clear teaching practice using authentic assessment, also An additional scale was developed to measure the kind of learning that was stimulated by this assessment. This scale was developed to examine if it was indeed perceived that the assessment assessed the capability to apply knowledge and skills to real-life situations. It was include 60-items related to dimensions of authentic assessment, Cronbach alpha was (0.83).

The study samples were randomly selected and consisted (86) of Islamic education teachers, was selected from secondary schools at educational Tabuk region. The main results revealed that the level of Obstacles of Implementing the Authentic Assessment was high. Also the most of teachers don't have clear perspective about authentic assessment. Based on the findings of the study. finally, The results of the study to the poor performance of teaching in a sample study in using authentic assessment. The researcher recommends That preparing program in using the Authentic Assessment in Learning of Islamic Education for the teachers, include real teaching practices.

Keywords: Authentic Assessment, Islamic Education, and teaching performance

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Excellence in teaching: The elusive concept

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Abstract

The role of teaching and the scholarship of the teaching profession have been always at the heart of the academy up till the publication of Scholarship Reconsidered (Boyer, 1990). The book has introduced new tenants to the professoriate that consequently altered the way teachers are perceived and assessed by the administration. Moreover, it has opened the door for more work relating to the definition of teaching and its excellence. There has been a lot of research carried out regarding excellence in teaching in North American institutions from the early nineties. That research aimed to seek a definition of the role as well as the characteristics of excellent teachers. Of course, the purpose of such research was to help in improving current practice as well as to help in shaping institutional decisions about rewarding teachers. Such definitions of excellence seem more pressing in young universities that aim to establish a high teaching profile. This paper will present the findings of an empirical study that aims to answer the question "what is the definition of an excellent teacher in a multicultural university?" This study is carried out in a medium-sized university, in the Middle East, that is known for its high academic standards. The study consists of survey that is carried out among 300 students and interviews with seven teachers, from different colleges, as it aims towards finding if the students' perceptions of excellent teachers align with the teachers' definition of excellence in teaching. The findings seem to suggest that both teachers and students share many common values when it comes to defining an excellent teacher; however, some teachers' perception of excellence seems to be governed by different value systems that may not be familiar to the students. Therefore, the paper will also try to answer another question about the role of ideology in shaping an excellent teacher. The paper presents an insightful understanding of the role of teachers who work in multicultural universities and how they perceive the profession. It also examines the role of ideology in shaping the teachers' persona and educational agenda.

Keywords:

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General music education: Changing paradigms and music education

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Abstract

In Turkey, music lessons in primary schools are in the form of general music education. Music lessons are generally instructed by primary school teachers (grade 1-4) and by music teachers (grade 5-8) in primary schools. In the 21st century, music education approach in schools shifted from "school music" to "music in the school". In fact, this orientation is directly related to estimating and exploring learning theories that can be applied in teaching music lessons, and their extensions. Teaching staff, prospective primary school teacher and music teachers should make sense of the process of "music teaching" with a common perspective associated with it by committing themselves to teaching theories and their extensions. This study, based on both the literature and long-term experience, addressed the process of "music teaching, learning theories and music as an educational content," and identified changing roles of primary school teacher and music teachers in the light of the changing paradigms. Moreover, a framework "for teaching music lesson" that will allow prospective primary school teachers and music teachers to better learn and manage music courses was recommended. This framework covers the subjects of "unit-theoretical foundations, playing-singing, creativeness (games and musical activities), listening to music, and material development" which complete each other from different aspects with respect to providing better motivation for students to understand music and effective music teaching.

Keywords: Music education, learning theories, primary school

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The teaching of EAP to native Arabic literates at the University of Petra: serious language problems and syllabus design solutions –A Completely Different Approach

Nihal Mustafa Umairah, Department of English, University of English Amman, Jordan

Abstract

This paper brings to attention a variety of difficulties in the teaching of English for academic purposes (EAP) in tertiary education. It indicates the growing recognition that students learning English as a means of access to advanced knowledge in the various disciplines at the University of Petra (UOP) in Jordan have highly specific language requirements. But equally, the paper reflects the sense of concern felt by language and special-subject teachers at the sheer scale of the problem now posed by students requiring specialist language help. Parallel with this is the increase in the variety and degree of language difficulties which they experience. The paper seeks to provide an overview of students' language difficulties investigated in previous and current research conducted by the researcher. The purpose is to draw these difficulties together and show how the constituents of an appropriately designed syllabus might ease some of the difficulties encountered. Hence, the proposal is for a general pattern for EAP syllabus which will ensure unity by teaching the skills and language that are common components of English for General Academic Purposes (EGAP), and at the same time allow for diversity by building in a range of constituents on a disciplinary basis; thus, teaching some prime linguistic and discourse features that are specific components of English for Special Academic Purposes (ESAP) which must be taken into account in the teaching of EAP to native Arab literates. The paper concludes with some new directions for progress in EAP materials and methodology. Students gain autonomy and a creative problem-solving ability in learning through the use of various technological innovation in EAP teaching.

Keywords:

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Satisfaction of Motivation on Insurance Female Sales at old Age – Take Nan-Shan Life Insurance Company As An Example

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to explore insurance female sales' preference about the motivation system at old age. Seventy-two sales in old age of Nan-Shan Life Insurance Company were selected randomly as the subjects and participated this research activity. The study aimed to inquire the satisfaction level of the insurance female sales at old age about internal and external motivation and their expectations. The variance of satisfaction level between internal and external motivation was inquired and analyzed by the questionnaire. The results indicated that subjects showed high satisfaction about the motivation, and devoted themselves to generate contribution for the society and gained the achievability. Subjects thought they had equitable chance to get promotion or reward while their good performance was recognized by the management. Authors proposed several recommendations and they could be taken as the references for the insurance companies and future researches according to the research findings.

Keywords: Motivation, Satisfaction, Female sale, Old age

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The impact of constructivism in a traditional context; the case of social studies student teachers in Jordan

Samih Mahmoud Karasneh, Yarmouk Univesity, Jordan.

Abstract

The strategic aim of this paper was to explore the impact of a constructivist approach to learning in a traditional context of passive/receptive philosophies of teaching. The vehicle was the introduction of journal writing to student teachers in Jordan. N=30 students were given a short course in journal writing as a learning tool on their final placement. The schools operated traditional approaches to learning and the students in the sample had experienced this throughout their own schooling. The impact of the course was assessed using semi-structured interviews. Some students had found the experience stressful but 75% had found it fruitful and motivating. The ready impact of the intervention in such unpromising circumstances suggests that 'being thoughtful' is the default mode or human learners but this can be easily submerged by systems and teachers.

Keywords:

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An Internal Mediation Model of Expansive Learning for Generative Activities

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Abstract

Activity theory, evolved from Vygotsky's social learning theories, posits that people learn and change when engaging in productive activities. According to Vygotsky, children learn through mediation of conceptual tools, which take place in both external and internal planes. While the mechanism of external mediation has been widely discussed with the metaphor of scaffolding, the mechanism of internal mediation is notably understudied in the literature. In particular, when the object of an activity focuses on creating a vision-driven product, rather than finding an efficacy-driven solution, internal mediation plays a key role in the process of expansive learning for the development of the activity. By investigating how a team of teachers created a new program of courses (i.e., the High Scope Project) that required levels of teaching expertise higher than those of their regular teaching duties, this study proposed a model of internal mediation that portrays the process of expansive learning underlying the development of a creation-oriented activity from the perspectives of constructionism theory. Instead of contradictions, the forces that drive such a creation-oriented activity to expand is the "creative tension," which manifest itself not only in the gap between reality and vision, but also in dualities associated with five actions that are usually taken to close or reconstruct the gap. The five actions and their associated dualities are: (a) appraise reality and prospect for growth: exploitation vs. exploration; (b) analyze actions: deficiency vs. advancement; (c) orchestrate construction: piecemeal vs. systematic; (d) test for desirability: internal vs. external perspectives; (e) reflect & revise: solidification vs. reconstitution. The duality associated with the vision is practical vs. possible. The dances of these dualities lead to a systemic model of internal mediation, which is more appropriate than a leaner cyclic model, to portray the mechanism of expansive learning in a creation-oriented activity.

Keywords:

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Educational Support for the Increase of Senior Students' Physical Activity Levels during and beyond Physical Education Classes

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Abstract

Background: Physical activity (PA) decrease during adolescence is becoming a major social problem (Cairney et al., 2012, Kahn et al., 2008). PA promotion among adolescents currently is in the focus of public healthcare (Sirard, Barr-Anderson, 2008). It is urgently necessary to encourage PA among adolescents (Schneider, Cooper, 2011).

Aim: establishment of the impact of educational support at school when promoting physical activity of senior students.

Method: Educational support to promote positive health behaviours and physical activity can be effective when dealing with such issues (Lin et al., 2010). 192 students aged 15 to 19 whose physical activity was insufficient voluntarily participated in the experiment. For evaluation of the physical activity levels before, during and after the experiment, the International Physical Activity Questionnaire brief form (Lee, 2011) was employed. The experiment (92 students) and control (100 students) groups were drafted. In the experimental group, 62% of students seeking educational support contacted the advisor on their own initiative while 38% received advice of a physical education teacher. Subjective scores of the complexity of physical activity issues were indicated by students themselves in a 10-point scale where maximum points indicated most urgent issues in physical activity. The material for educational support was developed on the grounds of Solution Focused Brief Therapy method (De Shazer, 1985). There were three educational support sessions. The students' progress in the solution of PA problems was assessed by subjective estimates of changes in the value comparison of the first

and the last assessment scores (Iveson, 2002). Results: At the end of the experiment, 44.6% of the participants of the experimental group indicated prominent while 21.7% specified medium progress when dealing with physical activity-related issues regarding activity boost. The number of low physical activity students decreased from 37.0% to 25.0% while the rate of high PA students increased from 31.5% to 46.7%. PA problem complexity scores of the experimental group compared with the control group changed statistically significantly (c2=83.17, p<0.05). Although during a longer time span, scores of complexity of PA issues increased in comparison with the scores during Session 3, they still were significantly lower in comparison with PA levels during Session 1, when comparing with the data of three months after the experiment (t=13.25, p<0.05) and with the data obtained six months after the experiment (t=10.51, p<0.05). Discussion and Conclusions: The educational support method is effective when seeking to improve students' physical education and increase their physical activity. The majority (66.3%) of the experimental group students stated they had achieved significant and medium progress when dealing with problems associated with physical activity.
Keywords:

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Personal factors related to creativity of physical education teachers

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Abstract

Background: Csikszentmihalyi (1988) defined a system approach to creativity. Csikszentmihalyi (1996) emphasizes that culture consist of various domain, and each individual creates within a specific domain. In the domain of education, physical education curriculum is special sub domain where the teacher creativity is related with the development of positive attitudes toward physical activity and formation of the need for physical self-development (Dumcien÷ et al., 2007). Aim: to evaluate physical education teachers' creativity in professional activities. Method: The size of the sample was 261 teachers with qualification degree: 113 senior teachers, 90 teacher methodologist, 18 teacher expert and 40 teachers. The group of physical education teachers constituted 46 per cent (n=120) while the group of other subject teachers made up 54 per cent (n=141). In order to assess the creativity and other factors of the research participants, a questionnaire was employed. It was drawn on the basis of the previous research (Lapeniene and Laskiene, 2009) and various scales presented in academic literature (Farmer, Tierney, and Kung-McIntyre, 2003; Tierney and Farmer, 2002; Leonard, Beauvais and Scholl, 1999; Amabile, 1996). The diagnostic block constituted 13 scales. Results: It has been established that creativity is only impacted by the qualification category ofthe participants: teachers and senior teachers are less creative (creativity scale means correspondingly 4.08±0.09 and 4.02±0.04) while teachers methodologists are more creative with the scale mean of 4.14±0.57), and teachers experts are most creative with the scale mean of 4.44±0.16. Years of work experience and the type of professional activity do not exhibit statistically significant impact on creativity in professional activity. Physical education teachers are more motivated to work than colleagues instructing other subjects. Extrinsic motivation scale mean in the sample of physical education teachers was 3.75±0.08 while in the sample of other discipline teachers'yield 3.49±0.05. Goal internalization motivation and intrinsic process motivation as well as creative self-efficacy may consider key factors related with teacher creativity independently form qualification category. The least important to creativity are emotion and socio demographical characteristics of the sample. Creativity among teachers of physical education was statistically significantly predicted by creative self-efficacy, creativity encouragement, intrinsic process and extrinsic motivation (p<0.05). Discussion and Conclusions: Teachers of physical education work creatively when they trust their skills and are process oriented. Creativity encouragement by principal also has impact. Extrinsic motivated physical education teachers do not tend to work creatively. Other discipline teachers are goal-oriented: they are motivated to work creatively by goal internalization motivation. Physical education teachers more often experience involvement, satisfaction, as well.
Keywords:

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The Problems of implementing inclusive education in public schools of the Republic of Georgia

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Abstract

The process of inclusion of students in the school heavily depends on the social environment, in which the student is involved during the education process. The teacher's role is especially important in the process of implementing inclusive education. For the successful implementation of the inclusion in educational institutions the attitude of the administration is very important and also, intensive cooperation between teachers, parents and professionals, and the detailed planning of the teaching process. The research aimed to examine the factors that were contributing to positive learning outcomes, and, directly or indirectly, affected the successful accomplishment of the learning process and student learning outcomes. As well as the conditions, which, schools should set up in order the children with special needs to get the proper education, to develop their spiritual world and acquire the necessary social skills to protect their own opinions, rights and dignity. The research hypotheses were: along with the positive attitude of social environment of the school, intensive cooperation between teachers, parents and professionals, and the detailed planning of the educational process encourages the involvement of students with special educational needs into the school. For the implementation of this research, was developed a special research strategy, which consists of the quantitative and Qualitative research methods. In the frame of quantitative research special sociological questionnaire was developed based on inclusion index indicators. It was used non probability, purposive target selection principles. The object of the study was Georgian public schools. Interviews were carried out with different respondents individually, in compliance with the privacy. The situation at schools was evaluated. Unpreparedness of the social environment for the implementation of inclusion was identified. The study has made it possible to provide the basic principles according to which the success of inclusion was highly dependent on the detection of the support from the side of the school and on the quality of this support. The survey revealed examples of enrollment of children with special needs in the public school, which were not followed by any additional support, resulting in a failure, and the student was transferred to a special school. At the same time there were examples of children with special needs to feel good in public schools, mainly due to a certain level of support that the school performs toward them. It was concluded that the success of inclusion largely depends on the positive social environment.

Keywords:

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Effective safety training courses in construction industry: Develop, validate and evaluate a new instrument

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Abstract

Objective: This study was designed to develop a new valid measure to evaluate safety training courses in the construction industry. Methods: Instrument items were generated from a qualitative research according to the principles of the grounded theory. Key measurement properties (face validity, content validity, construct validity, reliability, and discriminative validity) were examined using qualitative and quantitative approaches. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve was used to estimate the discriminating power and the optimal cutoff score. Results: The construct validity revealed an interpretable 12-factor structure which explained 61.87% of the variance. The good internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = 0.94) and stability (correlation coefficient = 0.93) were found for the new instrument. The area under the curve (AUC), sensitivity and

specificity were 80, 80 and 75 % respectively. It also discriminated the safety performance among the construction site with different worker's accident engagement (F = 6.40, p < 0.05). Conclusion: The new instrument appears to be a valid, reliable and sensitive instrument to evaluate the safety training courses in the construction industry.

Keywords:

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Critical Issues in Indian Higher Education System: Observations and Suggestions

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Abstract

India boasts of the third largest higher education system in the world, after China and the USA. In fact, it is likely to take over USA in terms of students' strength by early next decade. While china has the largest number of students in its higher educational institutions (20 per cent of its youth compared to 11 per cent of the Indian youth), India surpasses in its distinctive advantage of English language competence. This makes Indian higher education important internationally.

Indian higher education system is facing a tough challenge – both internally and externally. There is a loud cry from different corners of the society questioning its present objectives, relevance, functionality and long-term utility. Its social accountability, transparency in its working and its overall response to the national concerns has been strongly questioned. Doubts are expressed concerning the role of universities and colleges as leading lights to take the nation further in its scientific endeavours. Keeping all these issues at the centre, the present paper looks into certain critical elements and dimensions of Indian higher education system as a systemic requirement of India today.

This paper argues that higher education in India, like in a score of developing countries, does not prepare persons with applied skills. The insistence on theory-based conceptual knowledge drives the application to a second place. The graduate coming out of the university is academically qualified but not "employable" to perform skilled operations required by the industry and other sectors of society. To support this basic argument, the paper carefully considers the basic training content of four training centres in the country, set up by three major employment sectors – IT, manufacturing, and banking – as employers. Practicing principles of industry-academia linkages are evaluated in critical terms and pragmatic and practicable way-out is suggested. The triangular association between knowledge-skills-values on the one hand and knowledge-attitude-practice on the other are carefully looked into as the paper concludes. Further, in addition to the body of the text, the article contains references for future research in this vital area by scholars.

Keywords:

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Selection of Learning Management Systems: A case of Proprietary vs. Open source

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Abstract

Learning Management System (LMS) can be defined as "a software application or Web-based technology used to plan, implement, and assess a specific learning process ". The main objective behind LMS is to provide instructors with methods of creating, administering, managing and delivering online courses. LMS in many instances are also referred as Course Management Systems, Content Management Systems, Learning Content Management Systems or e-learning systems. Depending upon the type of LMS different variety of features like learning materials, quizzes, forums, chats, assignments, wikis, and so on can be included in the courses. Learner's participation and performance also can be monitored and assessed using the LMS . Due to the advantages of LMS, majority of higher education institutions are now using LMS as an integral part of their course delivery .

LMS are available through different vendors like Blackboard, Desire2Learn, eCollege, Canvas, Moodle, Sakai etc. In some instances educational institutions have their own developed systems too. The available LMS can be categorize as proprietary (commercial) and open source systems. In terms of commercially (proprietary) available LMS, Blackboard is the widely used system around the world and in terms of open source Moodle is the most popular. Both of these systems have their own advantages and disadvantages in terms of features, costs and usability. Due to the differences between the systems educational institutions are moving back and forth from Blackboard to Moodle LMS and vice versa trying to find a perfect and appropriate system based on the need.

SolBridge International School of Business, located in Daejeon, South Korea currently is trying to choose an appropriate LMS. SolBridge was using Blackboard LMS for the last two years. The Blackboard system in SolBridge was acquired through the government funded project. Before the government support for Blackboard Solbridge was using Moodle LMS. The funding support for Blackboard in SolBridge is coming to an end soon. Therefore SolBridge has to make a decision regarding the future use of LMS in the school. In this context top management of the school has requested CIO (Chief Information Officer) to provide necessary directions and recommendations in selecting the suitable LMS for SolBridge.

In this context this case tries to identify an appropriate LMS for SolBridge. In doing so this case will analyze and evaluates the most popular LMS available in the market. Looking at the LMS market share worldwide and educational institutions usage rate Blackboard, the most popular proprietary LMS and Moodle, the most popular open source LMS is chosen for the analysis and evaluation. This case employs Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) and Return on Investment (ROI) as the basis of analysis and evaluation. After the analyses, the appropriate LMS will be identified and recommended to SolBridge. This case will be helpful for educational institutions trying to adopt LMS or trying to move from one LMS to another. Further this case will help to reduce the risk of mitigation in adopting the LMS.

Keywords: Learning Management Systems, Proprietary vs. Open source Learning Management Systems, Blackboard, Moodle, Total Cost of Ownership, Return on Investment.

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Empowering 21st Century Science Data Professionals: The ePortfolio Methodology to Personalize Capstone Education for Lifelong Learning

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Abstract

The initiative of adopting ePortfolio as a culminating experience for Master's degree in Information Sciences was pilot tested. Action research was conducted using survey, interviews, and focus group methods. Findings

from action research resulted in the revision of the original 5-area Conceptual Model for pilot to an eP-2Pro Conceptual Model that defines ePortfolio as a private process in which the learner engages in setting up goals, collecting artifacts, reflecting on learning and organizing ePortfolio repository; the process leads to the creation of a presentational Web ePortfolio as a product. The implementation of the ePortfolio as a capstone experience adopts a two-round review process and uses WordPress for both the backend process as well as the frontend presentational product. Action research has been integrated into the ePortfolio practice to identify issues of concerns and to provide insights into how to leverage the potential of ePortfolio as an effective pedagogy for higher education and a strategy for lifelong learning.

Keywords:

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Research Trends on Mathematical Problem Solving in Turkey: Master Thesis and Dissertations of 2006-2013 Period

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Abstract
One of the primary aim of education is to train individuals as problem solvers to overcome and face problems in life. Problem solving has been the hallmark of the era we are in and takes a vital place in the objectives of all courses in education.Therefore, many studies were carried on and is still being done. In this context, the purpose of this study is to shed light to the future researches about mathematical problem solving by making an overall assessment of masters thesis and dissertations in this subject in Turkey. For this purpose 65 master thesis and dissertations retrieved from the thesis centre in the Turkish Council of Higher Education (YOK) were examined. The study was limited to the years 2006-2013 and with the master thesis and dissertations including "problem solving" term in their title. Researches included in this study were investigated according to the research methodology, publication year, publication type, sampling type, institution of the author and thesis's/dissertation's director's title. The results of the analysis would help researchers to see the current research trends and provide insight into future research related to problem solving.

Keywords: Problem solving, master thesis, dissertation, mathematics education

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Construction of the Ideal Citizen in Iranian School Textbooks: Conflicting Discursive Formations of Multiple "Us" and "Them" Binary Oppositions

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Abstract
This study interrogates whose knowledge about the self and the other is represented to Iranian students in the 2004 and in selected pre-2004 editions of elementary and guidance school textbooks by analyzing how issues of identity politics, diversity, "citizenship" and development inform the construction of Iranian national identity since the introduction of various curriculum reforms (i.e.: global education) after the Revolution of 1978-79. I "look at style, figures of speech, settings, narrative devices, historical and social circumstances, not the correctness of the representation nor its fidelity to some great original" (Said, 1978, p. 28). I argue that the ideal citizen and Iranian national identity are constructed by references to conflicting discourses of mustāżafīn (the oppressed), jīhād-i sūzandagī (the Reconstruction Jīhād), 'ashayir (nomadic tribes), Ummat-i Islamī (Islamic Nation/Community), Īrān-dūstī (loving Iran), the Aryan migration, velayat-e-faqih and colonialism. In their discursive formations, nationalist, anti-imperialist, Islamic, middle-class and Orientalist narratives construct a homogenized Iranian citizenry who has always been active in regional and global relations of power. The ideal

citizen is represented through the invocation of two types/sets of "shifting collectivities" that identify it as "white", male, Shi'a, Aryan-Pars, progressive, independent, pious and a leader in the Islamic world. The first set divides between Shi'a-Persians and non-Shi'a and non-Persians. The second set of binary oppositions represents the ideal citizen in relation and in opposition to the West and the East in their multiple and historical forms. Iranian school textbooks are assimilationist texts that act as "border patrolling" and "stignatizing" discourses. They are also forms of "textual genocide" that exclude the voices and histories of national and global minorities and acts of discrimination committed by Iranians against women and minority religious and ethnic groups as official knowledge about friendly/enemy insiders and outsiders.

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Analysis of Research on Mathematics Anxiety in Selected Journals (2008 – 2013)

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Abstract
Learning actualize in three basic domains cognitive, affective and psychomotor. So far, most of the studies have focused on factors affecting cognitive learning. Affective and psychomotor domains of research are less common than cognitive. It is known that these three domains affect each other and behavioral changes take place at the same time in three areas. Affective domain recently accepted as part of the education and has been the focus of research. One dimension of the affective domain is anxiety. Mathematics anxiety has been defined as feelings of tension and anxiety that interfere with the manipulation of numbers and the solving of mathematical problems and has been an important and common problem in learning and teaching from elementary through university levels. Mathematics anxiety positively or negatively affects the mathematics achievement and takes an important place in the literature. A systematic analysis of the studies is crucial in order to be able to see the present situation and future trends generally in science and mathematics in particular. In this study, research on mathematics anxiety in selected journals published by the ULAKBIM Social Sciences Database between the years of 2008-2013 were analyzed with regard to various variables. Data was collected through document reviewing one of the qualitative research methods. The researches which used "mathematics anxiety" in their title searched and included to the study. The main purpose of the study is to illuminate most frequently used rating scales to measure mathematics anxiety, the frequency of the samples studied, the distribution of studies to the years and research methodologies. The investigation of the researches will set a light to researchers and educators.

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