

FINDING A CLUE FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

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Abstract. In this paper we will make an attempt to explore the possibilities and opportunities for the gifted and talented children. Considering the current situation in Republic of Macedonia, we will also try to present the consequences of the lacks of insufficient skilled professionals and conditions for facing the need of these children and trying to make them successful individuals. Therefore, this paper is aimed to be a short research in the field of the social and institutional factors that have a direct impact on the gifted and talented students, as well as the benefits of the properly used feasibilities. The research is based in the educational institutions in the area of Stip municipality but, it also comprises the region of East Macedonia.

Key words: skilled professionals, gifted children, modern learning environment, parent's role

1. Introduction

Issues concerning the implementation of new approaches at work could be complex in some society spheres. The rapid transition from one system into another effects the whole population. The model of the system of European Union on how the institutions relate the society is simple as a draft, yet complicated to enforce. However, the strong need and will always play the integral part of this process.

The text describes some aspects of innovation in the universities in the sphere of recency the study programs, implementing new technologies, the way of functioning, change in the attitude of the teaching staff and their long life learning, as well as the expected results from the innovative exploits.

This paper is a result of the five year research and monitoring at the educational institutions in Republic of Macedonia. Section two gives an overview on the positive results due to the

implementation of the new technology devices as a compulsory tool for work. Section three is more specific and refers to, at some instances, the most important part of a successful and productive transition. At the same time, the facts given at this section directly relate to the necessity of change in the conduct and attitude of people, as crucial factors towards the general development. Section four gives conclusions and recommendations.

2. Advantages of the new technological innovations

The implementation of the new technology devices plays a crucial role in the process of development. The world today is very different from what it was some fifteen years ago, and the use of technology is simply a must. In fact, without the new tech-devices for most of the people life is simply unthinkable. The technological development and innovations provide fast production of new knowledge, and enable the creativity growth. It is essential to improve the quality of the educational process because of the necessity of study research, analyses and experiments made possible with the new communication technology, and the opportunities that are open to the teaching staff due to the usage of these educational technologies in the study and teaching process. Even more, that is how the teachers could be able to prepare their students for the life and work in the twenty-first century.

However, most of the university staff still consists of young people who have accepted the changes with easiness. However, there are still representatives of the “older board” who need supplementary motivation, practice and good will to become equal holders of the technology. The teachers must face the fact that they should effectively use the new technology on such a way that they could perceive its advantages and unique features, but in the same time they will create new approaches to the study process. The student needs are essential for effective usage of the new technology that is implementing in the education. However, in order to be applied it is not sufficient to be implemented only, but other important segments of the process of modernization need to be realized as well. Thus, it is necessarily to conduct training for the teaching staff and to enable them to use the new technology in their everyday work activities, but in the same time to be aware of meaning and possibilities which will result from their informatics literacy. Then, it is important to raise the level of accepting the informatics technology in education as an essence and mark of the new millennium, together with the meaning and significance of the internet in the teaching process.

The on-line study opportunities bring us closer to the leading educational institutions in the European Union. The consulting hours could now be done on-line as well, thus sparing time

for both the teacher and the student. A closer professional relation is built and this contributes to the change of the opinion of the students. The teacher is no more unreachable, but a model of how the modern world operates; he/she are the one who is ready and open to help and assist the students. Then, teachers could put whole or part of the study materials on-line, give an e-feedback for the outcome and student's participation during the lesson, or, on paper, and actively get involved in the blogs or forums.

The need of good knowledge of a foreign (world) language is another aspect that deserves more devotion. In fact, the main tasks on the computer could be performed on the native language; however the search engine implies the necessity of a good knowledge of a foreign language, in most cases that is English. In that context, the university managers could contribute through organizing courses on foreign language for the teaching staff. Such a course was organized at the University Goce Delcev at the first summer after its establishment. The Rector of the University has perceived the need and importance of language training for the employees, so, the course was one of the priorities that had positive results.

The process of entire implementation of the technology in education is long and arduous. Many opinions and comprehensions for the modern life style and espousal to the innovations should be outstripped. In that context, we will stress the need of conscientious and real approach to the innovations, mostly because of the fact that parallel to the adaption of the new working conditions, the planned activities are in progress. Therefore, the most applicable period need to be determined for the trainings of the teachers. That could be the summer time, when after the end of the academy year the teachers have fewer duties in a sense of preparation for classes, exams, and consultations, so they can attend training for their personal development. Thus, the good planned activities could result with a success and evident progress in the work, and most importantly, the education will be put in a service for the society.

On the way of building young and skillful professionals, we must not at any time neglect the new technology. In fact, the technological development intermixes with the society development. The earliest study of informatics and the happenings in the modern world start at the primary schools. Students there learn the basic programs to use and feel the benefit from the tech-devices. The university is thus obliged to continue this process, and it is just

another iron ring in the chain. Therefore, the modernization of the educational buildings and trainings for the staff is of primary significance.

3. Building a solid educational platform

In this section we refer to the aspect of the attitude of the university staff towards students and the other society sectors. As we have stated above, this section is more specific and refers to the most important part of a successful and productive transition. This section directly relates to the necessity of change in the conduct and attitude of teaching staff as crucial factors towards the general development.

There are many aspects that need to be emphasized in this section of the paper. The main point here is the personal attitude which is the primary factor that should be a subject to change. The habits of behavior of the people are very difficult to alter, and the whole process could be very stressful and painful. However, when the dominant force consists of young and ambitious people in combination with more experienced and motivated people, a hope for a promising end could arise.

The first point is to undertake a change within the university. This relates to the attitude and behavior of the teachers and students. As we stated in section two, through the new technology and modern way of communication, this barrier of stiffness and fear is easily exceeded. So, the first step is to work on surpassing the past mistakes, behaving more “European” and judging according to the efforts and results.

Many teachers face with various difficulties regarding their approach to the gifted and talented students, particularly when they are supposed to stimulate and increase their motivation for learning. In fact, there are many pros and cons that they can learn for at the well provided library or the internet, where they can even participate in a forum and share experience with their colleagues from other parts of the world. Simply, students need to feel that they are given free choice and responsibility for their studying. Teachers need to fully and precisely introduce the students with the study programs and advice them on additional information that will help them in the study process. Important fact is to be able to induce them to evaluate their results depending on what they have learned and how much they have progressed. It is certain that the students will be more successful when they will previously be informed about the evaluation criteria but also when they will be taught how to comprehend the learning goals and to prepare a feedback on it. Teachers will contribute a lot if they teach

their students how to value their efforts and the wide spectrum of achievements, and to induce the collaboration between the students together with the positive attitudes for the other people's successes and acquisitions. A more conscious attitude towards testing and evaluations should also play a crucial role in motivating the students. Teachers must under no conditions be obsessed with the testing and making comparisons between the students due to their marks.

Experienced teachers will easily recognize the gifted student (s) in the class. These children usually show great interest in many things, learn quickly and have a tendency to ask many and various questions. They may become a true challenge for the devoted teacher in a sense of preparing extra material for the class, assigning a different type of homework activities and brainstorming an extra interesting topic for the conversation hours. However, as the regular classroom teachers are often the first professionals to recognize a gifted student's potential, they can help them gain access to needed special services. These teachers also can help gifted students by cooperating with the gifted program teacher. Together they might modify schedules, instructional strategies, resource selection, curriculum goals, product development, and evaluation procedures. In addition, regular teachers can support special programs by working with other special services staff in their building.

But how can parents help their gifted child? It is natural for young children to learn creatively by dancing, singing, storytelling, playing make-believe, and so on. One of the first challenges to creativity may be a formal schooling. By this time parents, as well as teachers, appreciate conforming behaviors such as being courteous and obedient, following rules, and being like others. While these are desirable traits to some extent, they may also destroy a child's creative potential. Parents can foster and nurture the growth of creativity at their children through encouraging curiosity, exploration, experimentation, fantasy, questioning, testing, and the development of the creative talents. They could also provide opportunities for creative expression, creative problem-solving, and constructive response to change and stress, as well as find ways of changing destructive behavior into constructive, productive behavior rather than relying on punitive methods of control. Parents can provide their children with support and encouragement as they participate in a wide variety of home and community activities.

4. Conclusion

Effective teachers of the gifted and talented enjoy working with challenging and innovative students. They can recognize and program for unusual levels of ability, differences in learning style and mode of expression, and student interest. These teachers seek out advanced materials and unusual opportunities for their students, are experts in their teaching specialization, and possess a broad repertoire of teaching skills and techniques. Raising and nurturing a gifted child can be an exciting yet daunting challenge. Unfortunately, these complicated little people do not come with instruction manuals. They tend to experience all of life with greater intensity, rendering them emotionally complex. These children usually do not fit the developmental norms for their age; they have more advanced play interests and often are academically far ahead of their age peers. Therefore, their educational program should be designed to foster progress at their own rate of development, and their teachers should serve them as both educators and models of behaviour.

5. References

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