

8th International Scientific Conference - Special education and rehabilitation today - Belgrade - November 2014

## UNIVERZITET U BEOGRADU FAKULTET ZA SPECIJALNU EDUKACIJU I REHABILITACIJU UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE FACULTY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION

## SPECIJALNA EDUKACIJA I REHABILITACIJA DANAS SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION TODAY

### Zbornik rezimea Abstract Book

VIII međunarodni naučni skup The Eighth International Scientific Conference Beograd, 07–09. novembar 2014. Belgrade, November, 07–09, 2014

> Beograd, 2014 Belgrade, 2014

### SPECIJALNA EDUKACIJA I REHABILITACIJA DANAS SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION TODAY

### Zbornik rezimea Abstract Book

VIII međunarodni naučni skup The Eighth International Scientific Conference Belgrade, 07–09. 11. 2014.

Izdavač / Publisher:

Universitet u Beogradu – Fakultet za specijalnu edukaciju i rehabilitaciju University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation 11000 Beograd, Visokog Stevana 2 www.fasper.bg.ac.rs

> Glavni i odgovorni urednik / Editor-in-chief: prof. dr Mile Vuković

Za izdavača / for Publisher: prof. dr Jasmina Kovačević, dekan

Dizajn korica / Cover design: mr Boris Petrović, Zoran Jovanković

Obrada teksta / Word processing: Biljana Krasić

Štampa / Printing: "Planeta print", Beograd

Tiraž / Circulation: 250

ISBN 978-86-6203-054-2

#### PROGRAMSKI ODBOR:

Prof. dr Jasmina Kovačević, dekan, predsednik\*,
Prof. dr Mile Vuković\*,
Prof. dr Goran Nedović\*,
Prof. dr Marina Radić Šestić\*,
Prof. dr Vesna Vučinić\*,
Prof. dr Vesna Žigić\*,
Prof. dr Branislav Brojčin\*,
Prof. dr Branislava Popović Ćitić\*,
Prof. dr Dragan Paylović\*,

\*Univerzitet u Beogradu – Fakultet za specijalnu edukaciju i rehabilitaciju, Srbija Prof. dr Slobodan Uzelac, profesor u penziji, Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Edukacijsko-rehabilitacijski fakultet, Hrvatska

Prof. dr Anamarija Žic-Ralić, Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Edukacijsko-rehabilitacijski fakultet, Hrvatska Проф. др Зора Јачова, Универзитет "Св. Кирил и Методиј", Филозофски факултет, Институт за дефектологију, Скопје, Македонија

Prof. dr Vassilis Argyropoulos, University of Thessaly, Department of Special Education, Greece Doc. dr Magda Nikolaraizi, University of Thessaly, Department of Special Education, Grčka Проф. др Безрукова Наталья Петровна, Красноярский государственный педагогический университет, Краснојарск, Русија

Prof. dr Tina Runjić, Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Edukacijsko-rehabilitacijski fakultet, Hrvatska Prof. dr Suzanne Martin, University of Central Florida, United States of America Проф. др Приходько Оксана Георгиевна, Институт специального образования и комплексной реабилитации, Московскийгородской педагогический университет, Москва, Русија Prof. dr Edina Šarić, Univerzitet u Tuzli, Edukacijsko-rehabilitacijski fakultet, BiH Dr Vlasta Zupanc, Univerzitetski klinički centar Ljubljana Klinika za neurologiju Služba za neurorehabilitaciju – logopedija, Ljubljana, Slovenija

### **ORGANIZACIONI ODBOR:**

Prof. dr Jasmina Kovačević, dekan, predsednik
Doc. dr Irena Stojković
Asist. mr Snežana Ilić
Asist. Marija Marković
Asist. Ksenija Stanimirov
Asist. Slobodan Banković
Asist. Ivana Terzić
Asist. Mina Nikolić
Zoran Jovanković
Slavica Jovković

### Sadržaj

Plenarní deo Plenary session	7
Tehnike procene u specijalnoj edukaciji i rehabilitaciji Assessment Techniques in Special Education and Rehabilitation	11
Oblicí tretmana u specíjalnoj edukacíji í rehabílitacíji Forms of Treatment in Specíal Education and Rehabílitatíon	49
Poremećaji ponašanja, delinkvencija, zavisničko ponašanje i kriminal: Prevencija i rana intervencija Behavioral Disorders, Delinquency, Addictive Behavior, and Crime: Prevention and early intervention	65
Poremećaji ponašanja, delinkvencija, zavisničko ponašanje i kriminal: Tretman i prevencija recidiva Behavioral Disorders, Delinquency, Addictive Behavior, and Crime: Treatment and relapse prevention	83
Vaspítanje í obrazovanje osoba sa smetnjama í poremećajíma u razvoju Educatíon of Persons with Disabílíties and Developmental Disorders	101
Kvalítet žívota osoba sa ometenošću Qualíty of Lífe of Persons with Dísabílítíes	127

### Can we improve children's mental health with Why Try? Program

Lence Miloseva\*1, Tatjana Vukosavljevic-Gvozden², Vladimir Milosev¹ ¹Faculty of Medical Science, Dept. of Psychiatry and Clinical Psych., Goce Delcev University, Stip, R. Macedonia ²Faculty of Philosophy, Dept. of Clinical Psych., University of Belgrade, R. Serbia

Introduction: The Why Try? Program is a strength-based approach aiming to help young people overcome their challenges and improve outcomes by emphasizing their self-determination and strengths when solving problems. They are taught social and emotional principles through a series of 10 pictures reinforced by music, videos and physical activities teaching a discrete principle.

**Goal:** The goal of the paper is to try to answer the research questions about the possibility of developing a more positive perception of their future, and improving classroom behavior, attendance, and grades by participating in the program.

Materials and methods: The pilot project took place at three primary schools in Stip, R. Macedonia from February-June 2014. The population of pupils, attending 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, selected to participate in the program had to meet one or more of the following criteria by the end of the semester: failing three or more classes, having seven or more absences, displaying inappropriate behaviors indicated by two or more behavior incidentreports. A convenient, purposeful sampling method was

used to randomly select 38 pupils from a pool of 76 who met participation criteria. Data measurement tools used for pretest and posttest were Why Try? measures named *My beliefs* and *Behavior Rating Index for Children (BRIC)*.

Results: The results indicated that there are significant differences on two measures: *My beliefs* (t=-.2.98, p=0.02) and BRIC (t=2.60, p=0.01). The three areas on My Beliefs measures in which the pupils showed most improvement were self-control, perseverance, and using support network. The pupil behaviors listed on the BRIC that were most improved included: feeling happy and relaxed, paying attention in class, finishing a job or task, controlling their temper and decreasing behavioral problems in the classroom.

Conclusions: The present study showed similar results and outcomes compared with other research studies of the *Why Try? Program*, such as increased grade point average, decreased behavior problems, improved self-efficacy, increased willingness to persevere, and pupils` positive perception of future. The future direction should be to expand the implementation of *Why Try? Program* in R. Macedonia and compare the results to other studies.

Key words: improve, children, mental health, Why Try?, program

<sup>\*</sup> E-mail: lence.miloseva@ugd.edu.mk

# Can we improve children's mental health with Why Try? Program

Lence Miloseva, Faculty of Medical Science, Dept. of Psychiatry and Clinical Psych., Goce Delcev University, Macedonia

Tatjana Vukosavljevic-Gvozden, Faculty of Philosophy, Dept. of Psych. University of Belgrade, Serbia

Vladimir Milosev, Faculty of Medical Science, Clinical Hospital, Goce Delcev University, Stip, Macedonia

### Introduction

The *Why Try*? Program is a strength based approach aiming to help young people overcome their challenges and improve outcomes by emphasizing their self-determination and strengths when solving problems. They are taught social and emotional principles through a series of 10 pictures reinforced by music, videos and physical activities teaching a discrete principle.

## Aim of the Study

The goal of the paper is to try answering the research questions about the possibility of developing a more positive perception of their future, and improving classroom behavior, attendance, and grades by participating in the program. With other words, the purpose of this research pilot project was to determine the efficacy of the *Why Try?* Program in helping to reduce some of those risk factors such as: truancy; behavior problems in school; low academic achievement; school disengagement.

## Method

### Sample and procedure

The pilot project took place at three primary schools in Stip, R. Macedonia from February-June 2014. Once the intervention phase began, the student participants attended the Why Try class one hour each day, Monday through Friday, for 8 weeks. A convenient, purposeful sampling method was used to randomly select 38 pupils from a pool of 76 who met participation criteria. The population of pupils, 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grades, selected to participate in the program had to meet one or more of the following criteria by the end of the first semester of the school year: failing three or more classes, having seven or more absences, displaying inappropriate behaviors indicated by two or more behavior incident reports.

### **Measures and instruments**

A variety of behavioural variables, as perceived by the teachers in schools where we were implemented program Why? Try were examined. The following instruments were used: *Why Try? Measure - My belief; Behavior Rating Index for Children (BRIC)*, Stiffman, Orme, Evans, Feldman, Keeney, (1984); *Attendance reports; Grades reports.* Assessments included pre and post evaluation test forms completed by the teachers and the youth themselves.

## Results

Table 1: Comparison of Pretest and Posttest data measures

Pre	Pre	Post	Post	Mean Change	t	p
Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
1.88	0.55	2.03	0.49	0.13	-1.43	0.21
92.5	12.85	107.60	16.98	15.90	-2.98	0.02*
31.3	4.20	26.76	4.15	-3.95	2.60	0.01*
19.60	8.90	23.3	17.35	7.45	-2.11	0.15
	Mean 1.88 92.5 31.3	Mean SD 1.88 0.55  92.5 12.85  31.3 4.20	Mean       SD       Mean         1.88       0.55       2.03         92.5       12.85       107.60         31.3       4.20       26.76	Mean       SD       Mean       SD         1.88       0.55       2.03       0.49         92.5       12.85       107.60       16.98         31.3       4.20       26.76       4.15	Mean       SD       Mean       SD         1.88       0.55       2.03       0.49       0.13         92.5       12.85       107.60       16.98       15.90         31.3       4.20       26.76       4.15       -3.95	Mean       SD       Mean       SD         1.88       0.55       2.03       0.49       0.13       -1.43         92.5       12.85       107.60       16.98       15.90       -2.98         31.3       4.20       26.76       4.15       -3.95       2.60

A t-test for dependent samples was calculated in order to assess the difference in means between the pre-test and post-test.

The average pupils GPA did increase by 13 percent from 1.88 at pretest to 2.03 at posttest. The results indicated that there are significant differences on two measures: *Why Try?* measure (t= -.2.98, p=0.02) and *BRIC* (t=2.60, p= 0.01).

The average score from the *Why Try?* measure did increase from 92,50 at pretest to 107,60 at posttest indicating an increase in pupils' beliefs about themselves with regards to their attitude toward school and teachers, self control, perceptions of their future, perseverance, ability to cope with challenges and using support networks.

The three areas on *Why Try*? measure in which the pupils` showed the most improvement were self-control from 17.75 at pretest to 21.05 at posttest, perseverance from 12.30 at pretest to 13.40 at posttest, and using support network from 19.89 at pretest to 23.05 at posttest.

The average score on the *BRIC* did change from a pretest total of 31.3 at pretest to a posttest total of 26.76 indicating pupils` behavioral problems in the classroom did decrease by 14 percent. The pupil behaviors listed on the *BRIC* that were most improved included: feeling happy and relax, paying attention in class, finishing a job or task, and controlling their temper.

### Conclusions

The intervention with *Why Try?* Program is effective at improving some aspects of the children's mental health, notably conduct problems, than the no intervention control condition.

The present study showed similar results and outcomes compared with other research studies of the *Why Try?* Program, such as increased grade point average, decreased behavior problems, improved self-efficacy increased willingness to persevere and pupil's positive perception of future. The future direction should be to expand the implementation of *Why Try?* Program in R. Macedonia and compare results to other studies.

### References

Tammy, K. "WhyTry? A Program Evaluation." Poster Presentation, Minnesota State University (2010).

Moore, C.(2008). The Why Try program. Why Try Inc., Salt Lake City, UT. Stiffman, A.R., Orme, J.G., Evans, D.A., Feldman, R.A., and Keeney, P.A. (1984). A brief measure of children's behavior problems: The Behavior Rating Index for Children, *Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development*, 16, 83-90.

Witt, J. C., Van Der Heyden, A. M., & Gilbertson, D. (2004). Troubleshooting behavioral interventions. A systematic process for finding and eliminating problems. *School Psychology Review*, 33, 363-383.

Wymore, S.(2007). Why Try? A report of an after –school tutoring program. The Counseling Interviewer, 39(2), 9-13.

Address for correspondence: lence.miloseva@ugd.edu.mk