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Abstract

Islam and the Status of Women: A Revolutionary Change

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Abstract

No any other religion can compare with Islam in the revolutionary changes it introduced in the status and position of Women. These changes required a major re-adjustment in the way Women were to be evaluated and treated, both legally and morally. Islam is the only religion that emancipated Women from the bondage of cultural and in human subjugation throughout the history. Women Worldwide demand equal rights. There is no a system of law that preserves, maintain and protect what are truly Women's rights and status as much as Islamic law does, whether in the past or in modern times. The Prophet of Islam (Peace be upon him) in his lifetime demonstrated the new way that Islam wants women to be treated. It seems from a study of Muslim social development that after the period of the four orthodox caliphs, this new Islamic status for women, being contrary to the inherited prejudices and customs of some newly Islamized societies, was gradually suppressed and down-graded. It is therefore very important for every Muslim to put aside his prejudices and absorb the words of his creator about the status of Women, and to take as his model the Prophet's own example in this respect. This paper intends to examine and deals with each aspect of a Woman's status in Islam with quotations from the Qur'an and Hadiths, the original sources.

Keywords: Islam, Women, Status, Change
Factors of Avoidance in Thai Higher Education Students’ Intent to Use University Counselling Services

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Abstract

While most Thai higher education institutes now provide counselling services, Thai students rarely use them. Research has shown that the mental health of Thai youth is of growing concern. It will improve the well-being of higher education students if strategies can be developed to increase the chances that a student in distress will seek the help of a counsellor. This paper explores culture in relation to Thai students’ intention to seek counselling (help-seeking), through the lens of factors of avoidance, which are those factors that discourage students from seeking counselling. While there is a substantial body of literature on Asian-Americans regarding help-seeking and factors of avoidance, little of that literature concerns Thai culture. Furthermore, within the English literature on Thai culture, none focuses entirely on factors of avoidance. This paper adds to the inadequate body of English literature on help-seeking and Thai culture, and, most importantly, suggests methods appropriate to Thai culture for increasing higher education students’ use of counselling services. Additionally, it provides culturally specific knowledge to those Western based counsellors whose work concerns Thais, and initiates a conversation on methods to promote university counselling services in Thailand.

Keywords: Counselling, Higher education, Thailand, help-seeking, Avoidance factors
A study on relationship among organizational trust, organizational justice and organizational spirituality

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Abstract
Enterprises must stand from a perspective of human resources management to create the difference in the present fierce business environment of competition. The member is enterprise's most important assets; the more important thing is an administrator should grasp the staff's psychology. This study explores the relation of organizational trust, organizational justice and organizational spirituality, further compare someone is powerful to organizational spirituality. Use questionnaire investigation, it supposed and then study with the statistics technology of structural equation modeling, there is apparent prediction strength forward on organizational spirituality to find organizational trust and organizational justice. The meaning of the conclusion offers the industry to make as strategy, offer better human resources management, create and organize it with staff’s win-win wishing the scene.

Keywords: Organizational trust, Organizational justice, Organizational spirituality
Effects of Flipped Classroom by Learning Style in Medical Education

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Abstract

Background: In recent years, the flipped classroom model has become a fashionable instructional development in digital educational technology, particularly in the ways that technology relates to higher education among the health professions. Although flipped classroom has been popularized in many medical schools, few studies have analyzed the relationship between individual differences and flipped classroom. The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between learning style and the perception on the effects of flipped classroom.

Method: The participants were 42 students at Ajou University School of Medicine who were enrolled in a reproduction course in 2016. Two major instruments were used in the study. One was Felder’s Learning Style Inventory translated into Korean. The other instrument used for the study was a flipped classroom sheet developed by the authors. The data were analyzed by descriptive statistics, paired t-test and ANOVA using SPSS version 22.0.

Results: Examination of the students’ perception of the flipped classroom before and after the class showed that their scores were higher in all areas at a statistically significant level after the class. Analysis of the second-year medical students’ learning style showed the following inclinations: Active(64%), sensing(71%), visual(81%), and sequential(55%). As for the level of satisfaction by learning style, students with active, intuitive and verbal inclinations expressed higher level of satisfaction. As for the level of satisfaction by gender, male students yielded higher w score than female students.

Conclusions: The flipped classroom can be more suitable for students with active, intuitive and verbal learning style, and female students might not adapt to the flipped classroom as well as their male peers. Even a well-organized class could be ineffective if some students feel uncomfortable with the flipped classroom. The scope of this study was limited to students of a single class, and further research needs to be done to identify a pattern. Going forward, more diversified research should be conducted to verify the effect of the flipped classroom in medical education.

Keywords: Flipped classroom, Learning style, Medical education
Evaluating Social Competence and Behavior in an International Sample

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to identify whether the social competence of children between four and seven from high SES families differed in terms of age and gender. In earlier studies, it was found that the girls had significantly higher scores on social competence scale compared to boys; whereas, the boys were rated as more aggressive (Çorapçı et al., 2010; LaFreniere & Dumas, 1996). In terms of age differences, it was revealed that the older children reported as more socially competent than younger ones (Çorapçı et al., 2010).

The data was gathered from the teachers of 81 students from different nations including 37 females and 44 males from age four to age seven were selected from an international school in İstanbul, Turkey. For each child, both Turkish and non-Turkish teachers completed the Social Competence and Behavior Evaluation Scale-30 (SCBE-30) adapted by Çorapçı et al. (2010). This scale is consisted of three subscales, namely Anxiety-Withdrawal (AW), Social Competence (SC) and Anger-Aggression (AA). Thus, the children’s social competence and behaviors were evaluated in terms of the variables such as age, gender and nationality. Since gender, age and nationality were the factors for our study and gender has two levels as female and male, age has four levels as age 4, age 5, age 6 and age 7; 2X4 ANOVA structure was used. In addition to them, nationality has 2 levels as Turkish and non- Turkish, 2X2 ANOVA design for nationality and age was used.

In the post hoc analysis for each subscale, there was a statistically significant difference between children at age 4 and 6 for Social Competence (SC) subscale (p = .016, p < 0.5). There were no trends toward a gender and age in AW and AA subscales. In terms of different ethnic backgrounds, there were no significant differences between Turkish and non-Turkish children in teacher evaluations of any subscale. Since all children came from high SES families and educated in less crowded classrooms in a multicultural environment, it might be assumed that the school climate might exert an influence on the teachers’ perception of the children. Since this study has shown promising results, the impact of multicultural school climate on children’s social competence can be investigated through further studies.

Keywords: Social competence, SES, Behavior international sample
In-Service Teachers Perspectives on Inclusive Education in India

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Abstract

The regular schools of India are turning into inclusive ones following the directives of the Government of India, but for inclusive education to be successfully implemented, knowledge of teachers’ attitude is important as they need to transform their teaching styles in order to cater to the needs of all children. This study explores the perspectives of in-service school teachers towards acceptance of students with special needs in regular classrooms, and teachers’ concerns towards implementing inclusion. The sample comprised of 100 in-service teachers of mainstream Government schools of the city of Kolkata (India) selected through random sampling technique. A comparison was made between the perspectives of 50 teachers of primary section and 50 teachers of secondary section. The Sentiments Attitudes and Concerns towards Inclusive Education Revised (SACIE-R) Scale (Forlin, Earle, Loreman, & Sharma, 2011) and a structured questionnaire made by the investigators were administered. Factors affecting attitude towards inclusive education and training needs of the teachers were also studied.

Results revealed moderate positive attitude among the teachers towards acceptance of students with special needs in their classes. The teachers of secondary section were found to have higher concern levels than the teachers of the primary section with regard to implementing inclusive education. Besides some demographic factors, educational qualification, level of confidence in teaching children with special needs, training and teaching experience had significant influence on teachers’ attitude towards inclusive education. Results indicate a significant difference in the two groups with regard to their training needs. Analysis reveal that teachers of both the sections were facing various problems in implementing inclusion and were in favour of partial inclusion rather than full inclusion. Findings indicate the need of more in-service teacher training and increased availability of resources for the teachers to successfully teach in inclusive settings in India.

Keywords: Inclusive education, In-service teachers, Attitudes, Concerns, Training needs
The Influence of Biological and Para-psychological factors for mental disorders; a review from Buddhist Perspective

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Abstract

The background of this research is, studying of some psychopathological conditions with reference to Buddhism and the research methodology is descriptive methodology. In Nalakalāpa sutta Buddha has mentioned that the mind and the body are interdependent and co-existence. Therefore, sometimes mental defilements cause for arising of physical illness as well as physical illnesses influence to arise mental disorders. According to Visuddhimagga, the imbalance of air (vā) bile (pit) and phlegm (sem) effect for arising of the mental confusing and restlessness. This shows consequences of biochemical process of the body arising of mental disorders. Furthermore, in Visuddhimagga it is stated that inequality of air, bile and phlegm and four great elements (mahā bhūta) reason for processing of different kinds of characters as rāga carita (sensual character), dōsa carita (hatred character) mōha carita (illusion character) etc. and as a result of that process there arises mental stress and hassle in accordance with each character. In Giriṃaññāna sutta and Bēsajjakhandhaka Buddha has categorically explained different kinds of illnesses and remedy for each illness. The physical pain or suffering is burden for mental concentration. Vēndana saṁyutta and Bojjhaṅga saṁyutta also give details about monks who were mentally suffered consequence of their physical illnesses.

Buddha stated that the physical conditions just like decay and ill etc. (Jarapidukkha vyadipi dukkhō,) are also affright suffering for the individual because, such kinds of natural conditions of the body cause for arising severe mental illnesses. That is why, Buddha wanted to show the path of cessation of mental and physical sufferings. Buddha knew that all kinds of mental illnesses arise because of mental and physical combination (Pancūpadānakkhandha). Para-psychological factors are another aspect of arising of mental disorders. Milinda pañha emphasizes the influences of Para-psychological issues for dreaming. Some nightmares cause for mental confusion and hassle of individuals. According to the Milinda pañha such kinds of dreams are seen by individual due to influence of the Gods. Bēsajjakkhandhaka gives facts about mental disorders arise due to Para-psychological stimulus. According to Bēsajjakkhandhaka a monk was mentally suffered, as he was severely clasped by a demon. In Ummagga Jataka one of ministers of king Vedēha was abnormally behaved in night due to influence of certain demon. Suttas like Tirōkuddha, Vimānavatthu, Pētavatthu emphasize the Para psychological influences for the mentality of the individuals.

The result of the research is that there are many Biological and Para psychological factors which effect for arising of mental disorders. Even though, psychiatrics and
counselors in modern society recognized the biological influences as symptom for arising of mental disorder, they very rarely pay attention to the Para-psychological influences. This research contributes to psychiatrics or counselors to recognize the influences of Para-psychological, karmic and biological factors on mental disorders when they diagnose the symptoms of mental disorders.

**Keywords:** Para-psychological, Biological, Mental disorders, Buddhism
Education of Women as the Key to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals: The Case of India

Debasish Paul, Govt. Kamalanagar College, India

Abstract

Just as boys acquire sound knowledge and culture by the practice of Brahmacharya and then marry girls of their choice, who are young, well-educated, loving and of like temperament, so should a girl practise Brahmacharya, study the Veda and other sciences and thereby perfect her knowledge, refine her character, give her hand to a man of her own choice who is young, learned and loving.”

Keywords: Education, Millennium development goal, Women
The Succession of Manufacturing Firms: A Comparative Study of Taiwan and Japan

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Abstract

Recent theoretical work has revisited the concept of business succession. Although important issues have been discussed from time to time, no consensus on any particular pattern of succession has emerged. The similarities and differences among succession of family business and that of non-family business have not been investigated by sociologists, either. Lacking a body of empirical findings to draw upon, sociological discussions of business succession are often based on limited qualitative case study and those findings vary widely by researchers. In this research, we focus on both theoretical explanation and data promotion, and have the following important findings.

First, there is some difference in corporate culture and business philosophy between Taiwanese and Japanese enterprises. The training of successors is also different in that Taiwanese enterprises believe innovation and reformation can inject new vitality into the enterprise and open up new markets, whereas Japanese enterprises think product technology improvement and new products can maintain enterprise brands and win loyal consumers. Second, the influence of female successors became greater and greater in the succession process. The number of female successors has been increasing in both Taiwan and Japan, while the Taiwanese female successors are more open and innovative than that of male successors. Third, successors in Taiwan make preparations in various aspects. Some enterprises want the successors to start from the front-line to get the loyalty of employees and managers, to keep in touch with front-line employees, to learn enterprise operating mode, and to think about a future development strategy. Similarly, in Japan, a successor’s priority training is also to work on the front-line and accumulate work experience. However, there is little training on communication with managers and broadening enterprise operation. Japanese enterprises pay close attention to credibility and brand, and the main task of their successors is to sustain the enterprise and pass it on to the next generation. Fourth, the growth environment of the successor also plays an important role and has a great influence on successor. If the enterprise is located where the successor lives, then the willingness to take over will increase, since he/she may witness the hard work of the parents, learn about enterprise operation, and even receive training from the enterprise. Last but not least, the support of the previous generation and the “veterans” will make the succession process go smoothly. Many well-known disputes have occurred in the enterprise succession process in Japan and Taiwan, and the previous generation and “veterans” play an important role in it, since the succession process will not be easy without their support.

Keywords: Business succession, Family business, Manufacturing firms, Survey
Emerging New Asian-Pacific International Financial Orders

-China’s One Belt One Road and AIIB-

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Abstract

The primary purpose of this paper is to explain the nature and causes of the dynamic changes of international financial order in the Asia-Pacific region, especially by the establishment of the AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank). Conventional Multilateral Development Banks, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have been led mainly by the US, and in particular in Asia-Pacific area, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has played the critical role in support for many developing countries. The establishment of the AIIB in 2015 can be seen as China’s attempt to create another financial aid institution, accompanying with various effect on the current international financial order. With the China’s active advancement in South China Sea, for example, it may raise some doubt over China’s intent to challenge the US dominating international orders. The rise of the Chinese financial power cannot be understood independently of the global shifts among major countries. Its continued economic growth and the strong domestic demand have further stimulated to revise its international status and pursue more aggressive foreign economic relations. In this trend, the establishment of AIIB is not only regional multilateral economic institution, but it has some potential to materialize China’s foreign policies, as seen in the case of the One Belt and One Road initiative. This paper seeks to examine interrelationships between China’s domestic and foreign economic strategy and the impact of emerging China-centred financial order.

Keywords: China’s foreign economic policy, International financial order, One Belt one road, AIIB
Investigation of the Gender Differences on Self-regulated learning in Online Learning Environments

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Abstract

This study aims to collect quantitative and qualitative data according to the gender differences in six factors of SRL, which are Planning, Self-monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection, Effort and Self-efficacy. Sample of this study consisted of 172 undergraduate year 1 students from the Education University of Hong Kong (female 64.0% and male 36%). The Self-Regulation of Learning Self-Report Scale (SRL-SRS) has been developed for measuring students’ SRL about the perception of e-portfolios. The mean scores and interview responses gave interesting information according to gender differences.

Keywords: Gender Differences, Self-regulated learning, online learning Environment s, and Higher Education

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Abstract

Many students at the University of Texas at Dallas who are not music majors pursue studies in music very seriously, often taking music courses every semester, and are academically excellent students in both their major course of study and in their music classes. There are numerous studies that show a correlational relationship between the study of music and academic achievement (Kelstrom, 2016; Costa-Giomi, 2004; Schellenberg, 2004), but what principles of music study enhance the higher order learning skills required for academic excellence? Most universities are formed around disciplinary structures, based on 19th century models, and interdisciplinarity is not encouraged. The U.S. National Academies have remarked that the need for interdisciplinary education is driven by increasingly complex problems that cut across traditional disciplines and recommended “…students should seek out interdisciplinary experiences, such as courses at the interfaces of traditional disciplines…” (National Academies, 2005) The practice of music, whether in performance study, music theory or sound design, is a perceptual activity. This research study looked at the experiences of students at UT Dallas taking music and sound design classes who are not music majors. The qualitative nature of phenomenological research necessarily draws on participant observation or interview and open-ended questions. This research study used both open-ended questions through a Qualtrics survey and follow-up interviews. Student emails were solicited for spring and fall of 2015 and 159 respondents competed the survey. Eleven participants were interviewed for approximately one hour. The data from the survey and interviews was analyzed using phenomenological methods. Additionally, two cohort comparisons were conducted. The first looked at the differences between music and sound design students; the second compared STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) majors to non-STEM majors.

The students who answered the survey were articulate and answered many of the open-ended questions in great detail. The interviewees spoke at great length about their experiences in music and sound design and how it had affected not only their lives in general, but their academic experiences. From the analysis, we conclude students who have taken music and sound design courses feel that those experiences enhance their lives in many ways, and the majority of them feel it enhances their academic abilities. Students benefit by the nature of their experiences in music and sound design, but they benefit the most from the more analytical aspects of the courses. Those that had taken music theory saw a great benefit from those experiences, even if it is rudimentary and limited just to studying the form of a work.
Learning to analyze a musical or sound design work requires recognition of patterns, analysis and critical thinking and extends to other academic subjects. They benefit from the experience of listening to aural streams for extended periods of time with attentiveness to detail. The need to listen attentively for long periods of time, and to maintain that attention with focus and concentration, transfers to their other academic tasks, both in the classroom and outside it. Those in sound design perceive that it is an integral part of their activity. Memorization, on the other hand, is not, and was reported more by music students.

**Keywords:** Phenomenology, STEM to STEAM, Music in education, skills enhancement
Implications for Teachers’ Professional Development and Teacher Evaluation System Based on Expectations for Teachers from Multiple Stakeholders

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to empirically reveal the major themes of the expectations for teachers that three major stakeholders in primary and secondary schools (i.e., peer-teachers, students, and parents) have and whether or not there are meaningful differences between the expectations from the three groups. For doing so, this study analyzed 2,000 statements per group collected for the teacher evaluation for professional development conducted in 2015, thus the total number of statements analyzed were 6,000 statements. This study adopted content analysis approaches, which are the emergent coding method and matrix coding. The findings of this study were that expectations for teachers could be categorized into fifteen themes under the four categories (i.e., teaching and learning, counselling and guidance, relationships with students, and work attitudes). The fifteen themes were “effective teaching,” “various learning activities,” “subject matter expertise,” “instructional media,” “proper assignments and tests,” “correcting students’ bad aspects,” “communicating with parents,” “safety supervision,” “approachable and kind,” “encouraging students,” “non-discrimination,” “enthusiasm,” “collaborating with peer-teachers,” and “professional development.” In addition, this study found that responses from the three groups were quite distinct between groups. The findings of this study led to suggestions and future directions regarding teachers’ instructional strategies, emerging expectations for teachers, and current teacher evaluation for professional development.

Keywords: Teachers’ professional development, Teacher evaluation, Expectations for teachers from multiple stakeholders
A Study on the Reflective Inquiry Learning Activities to Promote Students' Psychological Empowerment

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Abstract

Numerous studies indicated that inquiry learning could help students to construct knowledge from their own experiences. This learning method has also been applied to numerous learning disciplines and proven to be able to enhance the knowledge and problem-solving skills of students (Trn a, Trnova and Sibor, 2012). However, the learning experiences of inquiry learning are complex and can easily lead the students to encounter setbacks and failure if there are insufficient background knowledge and problem solving skills (Cianciolo, Flory and Atwell, 2006).

Because reflective thinking can help the students to clarify personal difficulties and problems (Dewey, 1933, 1938) as well as serve as an effective tool for promoting mental empowerment of children (Johns, 1999, 2004; Rolfe and Gardner, 2006; Zimmerman, 2000); the research team of this study has added reflective inquiry learning activities before, during and after the students' inquiry activities since 2015. The goals were to enable the students to master the learning objectives of the inquiry activities through the “purpose,” “value,” and “continuity” characteristics of reflective thinking; which motivated the students to construct a problem solving strategy that conforms to their personal interests, abilities and values at the moment when they encounter problems, have the courage to assume the learning responsibilities and take actions to resolve the problems (Chou, Ku and Laiu, 2016). The primary focus of this study is to actually understand whether reflective inquiry learning activities can effectively enhance the students' psychological empowerment.

In this study, we adopted the quasi-experimental research method. The study participants are the researchers’ the 6-grade students of two classes, whereby one class was randomly selected as the experimental class to receive the reflective inquiry learning. The other class was the control class. So the reflective inquiry learning was implemented on one class. A total of nine teaching activities were provided and each session lasted two hours.

The results of this study indicated that the scores of the reflective inquiry learning
group for “community connection” (F=14.406, P < .01), “subject consciousness” (F=10.503, P < .05) and “psychological empowerment” (F=4.228, P < .05) were significantly higher than those of the general inquiry group. The general inquiry group's “passive waiting” (F=4.228, P < .05) score performed better than that of the reflective inquiry group. The results indicated that the reflective inquiry activities could indeed enhance the psychological empowerment of the students. The students can detect their individual inquiry learning roles during the inquiry learning process, were better able to seek the opinions of the group members to discuss the problem resolution methods when encountering problems and can assume more learning responsibilities.

The research team of this study proposes two recommendations for future studies. First, continue to conduct qualitative analysis to observe the students' various learning and psychological characteristics during the inquiry learning activities in detail in order to comprehensively reflect on the theories of the inquiry learning model and its practical teaching effectiveness. Second, observe the problems that the students may encounter during the reflective inquiry learning process and how the students overcome the problems in detail in order to facilitate the promotion of the teaching method and the application reference.

**Keywords:** Reflective thinking, Inquiry learning, Psychological empowerment.
Nurturance in Young Children: Investigation using semi-structured interviews

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Abstract

Background: The concept of “nurturance” is defined by Fogel, Melson & Mistry (1986) as fostering developmental change in the nurturance objects within the potential of their growth. Although previous studies have investigated adults’ (especially women’s) nurturance toward the babies, few studies have explored young children’s nurturance, which might be innate. The purpose of this study is to investigate how young children express their nurturance toward babies and younger children.

Methods: Participants were 76 kindergarteners (39 males, 37 females) in Kyoto, Japan. They included 28 four year-olds (Avg 4:5 years, range 4:0-4:11, 14 males, 14 females), 24 five years-olds (Avg 5:5 years, range 5:0-5:11, 12 males, 12 females), and 24 six year-olds (Avg 6:3 years, range 6:0-6:7, 13 males, 11 females). Participants were shown photos of 16 (8 males, 8 females) babies (0, 1, 2 year-old), and young children (3 year-olds and elementary school students), high school students, adults and elderly individuals. Then they were asked to choose the photos of babies and caretakers, a process similar to the previous study by Melson, Fogel, & Toda (1986). Then participants were asked their criteria for choosing the photos as that of “baby” and “caretaker.”

Results: Regarding the choice of “baby,” no significant difference was found in sex (F (1, 59) = .04, n.s) or age (F (2, 59) = 1.23, n.s.). The participants chose the photos of 0-1 year old children as “baby” on the basis of their size and behavior (χ² (6) = 22.63, p < .01). The participants in all age groups chose female adults’ picture as “caretaker” (χ² (1) = 25.97, p < .001), whereas fewer 4 year-old children chose male adults’ picture as caretaker than 5 and 6 year-old children (χ² (2) = 6.14, p < .05).

Discussion: Our study revealed that even 4 year-old children could differentiate between a baby and a toddler by their appearance and behavior. The definition of caretaker has changed with age, which suggests that their developmental changes occur through social experiences.

Acknowledgements; I am deeply grateful for the assistance given by Ms. Ryoko Sugiyama.

Keywords: Nurturance, Semi-structured interviews, Young children
A Study of the Influence Factors on the Learning Effectiveness of Curatorial Education

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Abstract

In response to the increasing and sustained growth of exhibition market for Taiwan’s design industry in recent years, which directly reflects the demand for curators in cultural policies and social needs. Nonetheless the instructional courses for the average design related departments in Taiwan falls significant short of curation and other related fields, which could not cope with the demand for talents in curation design. For this reason, the study develops master program in curation with instructional core in experiencing the role of curators. Students may explore into the primary factors that affect the teaching effectiveness of curation through this course. Literature review divides the influence factors of curatorial education into four factors, including curation theories, learning process and motives, self-evaluation, and curatorial experience. In particular, there is a positive correlation influence among learning process, motive factors and specifically learning effectiveness. Moreover, there is an influence of positive correlation among the three factors, curation theories, learning process and motive, and curatorial experience. Moreover, there is a negative correlation between self-evaluation factor and learning effectiveness. It suggested that the future courses focusing on upgrading the introduction of self-learning and achievement in students.

Keywords: Curatorial education, Practical teaching, Learning effectiveness
Teaching Design Thinking: A Case Study of A Students’ Overseas Study Mission In A Business School

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Abstract

The primary goal of this paper is to showcase a concrete example of how experiential learning approaches can be used to engage students in a conducive environment to learn about the design thinking principles. Our study examines an experiential learning case where students are immersed in a foreign environment that is distinct from learners’ usual associations/interactions and learning modes. The example illustrates how a foreign environment that is distinct in its culture provide a fertile ground for students to learn alternative problem solving skills such as the design thinking methodology and deepen their appreciation of the design thinking approach through a four steps process: - “observing, conceptualising, applying and reflecting”. Through the four-step process, students were able to relate to the key principles of design thinking and appreciate its unique perspective that is dominantly focused on user's value in a short time span. In the final step, when the students reflect and share their leanings at the end of the trip, they were able to articulate the distinct features of the design thinking approach. Furthermore, the overseas study mission promotes students’ interest and curiosity to deepen their understanding of the design thinking approach and reinforces their willingness to apply design thinking in their framing for issues encountered in work.

This paper contributes to the literature on experiential learning and teaching design thinking as an alternative problem-solving approach in the business world. We argue that the experiential learning approach and design thinking education deserve greater attention in theory and practice. It is important to have the conducive environment to allow students to tune their mind towards design thinking – user centric value focus instead of problem focus mode of operations. The cross-cultural experiential program during the Tokyo study trip serves as an example of how non-traditional educational approaches can be used to supplement the traditional lecture-based format. Through the structured itinerary that is planned in the study trip, students learned that design thinking is a tool that provide effective means for solving problems.

Keywords: Design thinking, Experiential learning, Overseas study mission, Case study
Empowering Women and Achieving Gender Equality to Be Sustainable Development in the Context of Myanmar

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Abstract

The present research is an attempt to explore the different dimensions of women empowerment in Myanmar. In the present study various dimensions for 113 respondents have been explored through questionnaire and 39 individuals were included in the interview-based study which was conducted among adult women residing in our own country in 2017. Differences in women empowerment have also been observed across different social groups. The study views women empowerment based on the dimensions namely decision making, access to and control over resources, security, and support by family / freedom from domination, gender awareness and mobility of each women respectively. In this study, women empowerment is explored by using a pre-framed questionnaire and face to face interviews. Women's empowerment is a fundamental issue of development in some countries. The purpose of this study is to uncover the role of women empowerment and promoting gender equality in the social context of Myanmar. Based on the data analyzed, the findings show that the role of women across selected dimensions is less reflected in the context of Myanmar. According to the average data obtained from interviews and questionnaire, the place of women in society is downgraded to contributing minimally to the social development of the country.

Keywords: Women's empowerment, Gender equality, Social Context
Analysis of the Quality of AR-Craft as an Interactive Promotional Media for Yogyakarta Art Craft Enterprises

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Abstract

Yogyakarta has over 75,000 small craft companies that create various products. In order to compete in the market, they have to publish attractive promotional media. The purpose of this research is to develop AR-Craft Cards and Jogja Craft App as interactive promotional media for Yogyakarta Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. The research method is Research and Development (Waterfall Process Model). The research was conducted into several steps: (1) need assessment and literature study, (2) application design, (3) promotional media development, (4) software test, including functionality, usability, portability, efficiency, maintainability, and reliability based on ISO 9126. After conducting all the research steps, the AR-Craft successfully developed the performance of the media generally with the result is “Excellent” consisted of usability 82.98%, functionality 82.5%, reliability 83.3%, portability 85.0%, maintainability 75.0%, and efficiency 75.0%.

Keyword: Media, Promotional, Enterprise
Women empowerment: A case study of Myanmar employed women and housewives

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Abstract

This research analyzes multiple measures of women’s empowerment in the context of Myanmar. Empowerment is a multidimensional social process, which can change our life and social status in the society. In the present research, an attempt has been done to evaluate the impact of women empowerment on employed and housewives of Myanmar. Sample size of 107 comprising of employed and housewives was selected to respond the closed ended questionnaire consisted of 15 statements. Primary data were also collected by interviewing 31 women who are educated as well as housewives. The limited size of sample was chosen to avoid response errors. The results show that Myanmar women's ability to make strategic life choices in that educated and employed women are in a better position and have participative and decision powers in making family economic and social decisions. This indicates that employed women have positive impact on their family life. Thus, they gain control over their own lives, their decision for children's education, and in their society by acting on issues that they define as important. It has been also found that women's empowerment is all about allowing and equipping women to make changes by democratic ways. Some Myanmar housewives remain underrepresented in decision-making positions in most spheres of economic, social and family living standard. In conclusion, the analysis shows that, consistent with the theoretical approach employed here, which treats gender relations as heavily influenced by community norms and values, community is a far stronger predictor of women’s empowerment than are individual traits. The relationship of both community and individual traits to different measures of empowerment vary, suggesting that “empowerment” is inherently a multi-dimensional phenomenon, with women relatively empowered in some spheres but not in others. The primary policy implication is the importance of changing community norms and values about gender relations for empowering women. The results also suggest that policies to enhance their educations and open greater employment opportunities will also help to empower them, at least in some respects.

Keywords: Women empowerment, Employed women, Housewives
Self Learning Assistant (SLA) as a Way to Develop Easy Access E-learning Open Source Collaborative for Student

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Abstract

Ease in accessing the learning materials are still difficult to obtain student Indonesia. The material obtained student currently only relies on teachers who come from one of the same institution. This paper discuss the development of the ease of accessing E-Learning Open Source Collaborative for Indonesia’s Student use Self Learning Assistant (SLA). The method that we use for research is Research and Development and the goal of the research is to create and develop access Open Source E-Learning Collaborative. Collaborative Learning becomes a necessity for students in Indonesia. We find that 100% of the 30 respondents need lessons from different teachers and various agencies are easy and free. Self Learning Assistant (SLA) is an Open Source E-Learning Collaborative for the student of Indonesia. SLA has features that allow students to learn independently with the two-way interaction and equipped learning materials from various educational institutions in Indonesia. To add to the student's level of understanding, the SLA provides a Self Learning Electronic Book (SLE-Book). SLE-Book has advantages i.e. There is Audio Visual system in learning. Augmented Reality add SLE-Book more interesting for Indonesia’s student. With the SLA is expected to facilitate the student's learning access Indonesia wherever, whenever, effectively and efficiently. Recommendations for an SLA that is, the need for the development of SLA, SLA so that objects can be used also by informal learners.

Keywords: Self-learning, Easy access, E-learning;
The Pedagogical Atmosphere as a Means to Prevent School Failure

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Abstract

From a societal perspective, school problems or school failure are often understood as stemming from the individual child’s deficiencies. It may be due to anything from medical or psychological conditions, for instance dyslexia, ADHD, autism to poor attendance and - what some might call - downright laziness. The result of school problems can be seen and measured in grades, poor outcome on tests, or retention. The solution to the problems is to diagnose, weigh and measure more intensively and then, based on the results, “treat” the child or young person with difficulties. More often than not, these children are the target for interventions and special needs education. But is special education a “deus ex machina” that appears from above to save the child? Not all school difficulties have their roots in the individual child’s lack of intellectual abilities or mental capacity. These problems arise, exist, and are maintained in the between; between child and teacher, between child and peers, between child and the learning environment. These are the children in – not with - difficulties. When you let the children or young people themselves give voice to their lived experiences of school problems, they rarely speak of grades, tests, or exams. Their stories do not speak of the relation between student and learning – or lack thereof - but between student and teacher. Sometimes the between resides in the space between student and peers. What is born in the between decides whether your educational path will lead to success or to failure. My hermeneutic-phenomenological study presented me with experiential accounts, which talked about trust, security, faith, responsibility, disappointment, and failure as a human being, just to mention a few lived experiences. It also became quite obvious that the way to go is not just to save children already in difficulties but rather to prevent them from failing by creating a pedagogical atmosphere built on trust and safety.

Keywords: Special education, School problems, Lived experiences, Pedagogical relations, Hermeneutic phenomenology.
A Comparative Analysis of Aspects of Private and Autonomous “Mutual Assistance Payments” in Asian Countries

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Abstract

It is inevitable that Asian countries will see rapidly aging societies in the future. However, many of these countries have not yet developed public social welfare institutions comparable to those found in European welfare states. Hence, there is a need to develop more efficient and appropriate social security systems in these societies. When investigating this problem, it may be necessary to focus on Autonomous “Mutual Assistance Payments” based on personal relationships like parent and child, siblings, family relatives, friends, and significant others. According to our previous original survey, conducted about 2000 sheets in Thailand, we found that private mutual aid in households accounted for 20 per cent of the average household income. This scale of expenditure is larger than official public aid at the household level. Since public aid based on personal human networks already exists in other countries, it might be possible to actively use similar social welfare systems in Asian countries. This study investigates the existence of mutual assistance payments in Asian societies, such as Cambodia, South Korea, and Indonesia. We also attempt to underscore differences between these countries in a comparative analysis based on various cultural elements or religious social norms largely derived from Buddhism, Confucianism, and Islam at different stages of economic development. If we find the existence of private and autonomous aid in these four countries, such ‘informal’ institutions may be eventually mobilized to augment social security systems.

Keywords: ‘Informal’ institution, Culture, Private human network, Social capital,
Diversity and Intensity in Integrated Rural Farm Management through HDPE Geo-Membrane Natural Irrigation Ditches for Rural Farmers Entrepreneurial Economic Generation and Environmental Sustainability

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Abstract

This study is attempted to look into the diversification and integration of rural farm management through a permanent man made HDPE Geo-Membrane natural irrigation ditches for economic generation and upgrading rural farmers’ livelihood and sustain eco-system. We are looking into the economic value derive from the existing rural farmers’ rubber and oil palm smallholding towards income generation and economy. The introduction of a diversify and intensify integrated rural farm management with HDPE Geo-Membrane agriculture program will generate income for the rural farmers’ effort in economically intervention on its potentiality and usefulness in cultivating commercial agro food crops or mix temporal cash crops and livestock breeding, at the same time retaining of moisture, soil fertility and conservation of its eco-system. The participative efforts from various fraternities are crucial. It has great impact in determining the level of maximizing the potential agro crop outputs, livestock and meat production and eventually in upgrading farmers’ income and livelihood as well as generates country’s economy and supply of agro food to meet the demand of world population. Technicality and expertise in the implementatiion process are two important factors. Knowledge on agriculture and animal husbandry are also taken into consideration in this study. The Design or methodology used is diversification and integration of rural farm management through manmade HDPE Geo-Membrane natural irrigation ditches technique on the integrated commercial agro mix monoculture, temporal cash crops, livestock and fresh water fishes breeding. In general, there is a significant difference among factors stated above on diversification and integration of rural farm management system. The initiatives depend on the inter-relatedness of the various partners in the program which will constitute to the income generation and economy. In addition, the quality and agro knowledge of farmers are another two essential factors found to be the strong fundamental in the diversification and integration of rural farm management program.

Keywords: Diversification and integration, Rural farm management, HDPE Geo-Membrane, Agriculture, Livestock breeding
International Service Learning Programme in Post-disaster Region: Environmental Improvement Projects in Nepal

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Abstract

Increasing number of engineering-related disciplines are organising service learning programmes as a medium for students to apply engineering techniques in real-life context and enhance social awareness. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) held the first-and-ever overseas service learning programme in a post-disaster region where existing problems were raised by local non-governmental organization partner, Future Village Nepal (FV), 100 km away from Kathmandu capital city of Nepal. On top of problems and needs suggested by FV, students were given room to draft their own proposals with engineering designs on environmental improvement, prepare programme plans under themes of environmental health for village children, and organise cultural exchange programmes in the village. A total of 40 out of more than 110 participating students from multiple disciplines were selected through group interviews, and divided into four project groups with articulated themes – (i) water supply, (ii) wastewater treatment, (iii) health and safety education, and (iv) GPS mapping, respectively. Before the eight-day trip in Nepal, four preparatory workshops were co-led by FV representatives and CEE academic staff, which focused on Nepalese culture discovery, environmental safety and health in disaster regions, water supply and wastewater treatment, and finally presentation and finalization of project group proposals. Throughout the preparation process, all proposals were reviewed and commented by FV and CEE academic staff, and then accordingly modified and improved by the students. These workshops served as a platform for students to explore situation of target group and acquire relevant background knowledge.

During the stay in the FV, students conducted GPS surveying, water supply mapping, health and hygiene teaching, toilet and house rebuilding projects, family visits and
interviews, engagement games and activities, as well as cultural exchange workshops. In order to provide students with all-round exploration of Nepal, historical monument visits to Swayambhunath, Boudhanath Stupa, and multiple Durba Squares led by local partners from Nepal Engineering College were complimented with a local technical school tour in Patan and four guest sharing sections. Both qualitative and quantitative assessments were given to students at different programme stages, including reflective journals, questionnaires, and group interviews. These assessments enabled us to compare their pre- and post-trip attributes and identify common themes. Criteria assessed consisted of: identification of real-life problems and needs, global citizenship, technical application and generic competence. Realisation of global citizenship, understanding local context and problems, application of engineering knowledge in real-life situation, and interpersonal communication skills in a culturally diversified environment were the most significant learning outcomes observed among participants and align with findings from other engineering service learning study.

This study described the implementation of service learning programme before, during, and after the service trip to Nepal, explained methods of assessment and discussed students’ learning outcomes under scope of academic learning, service experience, and personal development. Limitations of the programme, such as inadequate local technical support in obtaining data, have induced additional learning outcomes as unexpected benefits in students learning. We also compared the effectiveness and feedback of this voluntary service learning programme with those of mandatory service learning programmes. We highlighted and discussed the similarities and discrepancies for the purpose of enhancing students learning experience in the future programmes.

**Keywords:** International service learning, Post-disaster-region, Nepal, Environmental improvement
The Effects of Materials on the Game Prototype: Applying Wood Artefacts and 3D Printing Artefacts in the Game Testing

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Abstract

Game designers develop game prototypes with game mechanics in the process of game design. Target/potential players as testers are invited to play the game prototype and designers may obtain feedback to revise the rule of the game. However, diverse materials used in the game prototypes may give players’ different game experience. This study takes Tatung University Media Design students’ game design project ‘Hot Taro’ to investigate players’ perspective on wood artefacts and 3D printing artefacts applied in the game prototype. Thirty-four participants were invited to play the game prototype with wood artefacts and 3D printing artefacts. The paired-samples t test was applied to access the effects of materials on the participants’ game experience. The result indicates that ‘the degree of attention’, ‘the degree of understanding’, and ‘the degree of friendliness’ were influenced significantly when using 3D printing artefacts. Also, the participants preferred 3D printing artefacts used in the game prototype. The game prototype with 3D printing artefacts seem to be suitable for players to test the rule of the game but this confidence should be explored further.

Keywords: Game prototype, Wood artefacts, 3D Printing artefacts
Learner Independence in "Qaryah Thayyibah" Learning Community in Salatiga

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Abstract

Qaryah Thayyibah learning communities in Kalibening, Tingkir, Salatiga is one form of community-based alternative schools. As institutionally, curriculum planning, implementation methods of education, and alternative methods of evaluation. Qaryah Thayyibah learning community providing equal education program package B (equivalent to junior high school) and package C (equivalent to high school). The process of applied learning and evoked responses citizens to learn after participating in the learning process that is applied in the Community Learning Qaryah Thayyibah are very important. From the data obtained in the study, showed that the learning process is applied in Qaryah Thayyibah based learning community agreement includes planning, implementation, and evaluation, the companion function only as a facilitator. The response form that appears on citizens studying in Qaryah Thayyibah shows more positive direction as seen from the few changes in behavior and mindset. To strengthen the child's independence ideals can be realized through applied learning activities in this learning community. So many of the alumni community Qariyah Thayyibah learn to be successful in his profession that has become his goal since the beginning.

Keywords: Learners independence, Learning community, Qaryah thayyibah.
Moral Education in a Culturally Diverse Environment: Resisting the Call of Ethnocentrism

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Abstract

Exactly 30 years ago, Allan Bloom’s *The Closing of the American Mind* was published, and became the most successful education book in American history. It preached many of the same things that Trump does: local exceptionalism, the “wisdom” of excluding others, and provides an ahistorical explanation of the nation’s ills, and how it can, supposedly, recover. Trumpism, Brexit and the coming-to-power of several reactionary leaders are all indicators of a certain trend of fear-mongering and xenophobia that is sweeping through some parts of the world. Interestingly, in America, one of the groups least fooled by Donald Trump and his string of easily disprovable lies are young people, who regularly poll as being decisively outside of the Trump camp. This is partly because of the spirit of liberality, fairness, openness and acceptance that is fostered in many of America’s, and the world’s, schools.

However, the pull of ethnocentrism and scape-goating becomes strong during times of economic turbulence, therefore bad ideas are worth revisiting, so that their dangerousness and foolishness can once more be forced into the light and exposed for the foolishness which is their root. It is easy for young people, impressionable by definition, to be misled. As Kenneth Burke wrote: “A compensatory increase in sensuality generally accompanies a loss of faith in the reasonableness of a society’s purposes. People try to combat alienation by immediacy, such as the senses alone provide” (*Attitudes*, 218). We educators must remain eternally vigilant, on top of the problem, and aware of the danger signals.

**Keywords:** Moral education, Diversity, Inclusion, Scapegoating, Trumpism
Action and Participation in Teaching and Didactics in era of Digital Innovation: The Role of Game-based Technologies

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Abstract

Studies focusing on educational processes have highlighted the role played by action in the development of knowledge. Since the studies of Piaget (1967) and, recently, the psychological and pedagogical approaches regarding experiential learning (Kolb, 1984; Dewey, 1993; Bion 1996;), cooperative learning (Dewey, 1961; Lewin, 1973; Johnson, Johnson, Holubec, 1996; Kagan, 2000) and action learning (McGill, Beaty, 1992; Marsick, Cederholm, Turner, Pearson, 1992; Mumford, 1991, 1997; Pedler 1991; Marquardt, 2009) have all emphasized imagination and cognitive, constructive and regulatory functions deriving from the experience mediated by action. In fact, our experience is built and organized through a form of existence which is exclusively conveyed by a moving body within an environment. According to this perspective, the quality of learning is based on the ability of acting, from which derives a construction of reality as well as a construction of the self. The pedagogical implications of this assumption have led to profoundly rethink action in education and didactics (Rossi, 2011; Rivoltella, 2012; Sibilio, 2014) and led to consciously use our ability of interaction as a basic means of knowledge and learning, setting educational and training programs focused on the possibilities to act, to interact and to participate. Within this perspective, educational technologies are substantially an area of experimentation and implementation; a frontier of development in which the formative participate benefits of possible experiences that amplify the potential of action and interaction through the extension of experience itself. Game-based technologies are part of the gamification world understood as a form of action characterized by the introduction of typical elements of the game within educational and professional contexts. The principle is to use typical dynamics (prizes, rewards, competition, fun, socialization) that gratify the participants and motivate them to continue the task. The birth of the concept of gamification gave rise to the application of rules to reality as a way to make it easier for people to approach certain aspects of their life that are often not experienced with the necessary positivity. In other words, gaming can simplify that which is complex, turn obstacles into challenges, make limits become acceptable. With this purpose the study is aimed at emphasizing the
importance of action in the knowledge and learning processes and the central role it can play through smart-device technologies, defining new ways and opportunities to allow participation, giving significance to the relationship between action and learning.

The research conducted at the University Parthenope of Naples with a sample of 150 students enrolled in different courses of study, used game-based technologies and a platform called Kahoot which offered the possibility to create a single response quiz game. The contents presented focused on a few core concepts regarding international trends in training. The quiz-game was composed of eight multiple choice questions. Respondents could use their smartphone to answer, on which a digital keyboard was shown. At the end of the experience, the participants were also invited to evaluate the level of satisfaction through a vote expressed with the use of emoticons displayed on the smartphone. The main factors were: the correctness of the response and speed in responding. At the end of each round, the computer system generated the partial and final results of the response of the students’ performance through a graph representing the distribution of correct and wrong answers, as well as a ranking that showed from time to time, the best competitors in the various rounds. At the end of the entire Q&A session, the last graph provided the percentage of correct and wrong answers in total.

In light of the theoretical framework analyzed, the experience developed and the results obtained, it is reasonable to argue that game-based technologies enable a more effective engagement, improve overall learning processes and optimize knowledge retention. On the other hand, these findings reflected in the literature analyzed in support of the theoretical framework that shows how concrete action is an essential condition for the processes of learning, knowledge, and training. The research carried out, albeit on a limited sample, did show good ability to use the proposal as a systems methodology which may be used in curriculum design of higher education programs, also with reference to the improvement of teaching at university level. The use of game-based technologies has enabled students to participate more, both in the acquisition phase as well as to a better understanding of the proposed contents. The dynamics triggered by means of the game led students to engage and involve themselves to compete and win and prompted them to better remember the content required. The subjects involved had the possibility to be partakers of the learning process, by acting concretely and passionately using their own capacities of attention and memory, on the basis of the characteristics of the game. The intricacy between “live” experience and the chance to reflect was highlighted through the immediate feedback, to which they attributed a high quality of training. In conclusion, the proposed study provided reasonably reliable evidence that learning through concrete, active experiences, also through play, as well as enabling a better focus on the students’ abilities, potential and limits overall improve the processes of self-efficacy and motivation to learning.

**Keywords:** Action, Participation, Didactics, Digital innovation, Game-based technologies
To What Extent are Western “General Theories” Valid in East Asia? --- The Case of “Cultural Imperialism” Theories

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Abstract

Social sciences were created in Europe by imitating natural sciences such as astronomy, physics, and chemistry. Since the objects of natural sciences are almost the same all over the world, theories created or findings obtained in natural sciences have been universally applicable all over the globe. On the other hand, however, what social sciences deal with such as politics, economy, society, and culture differ from one area to another. Therefore, theories created or findings obtained in one area on the globe may not be applicable in other parts of the globe. As social sciences were born and developed mainly in Western Europe and North America, many social sciences have various kinds of “Western, or even American in some cases, biases”. While it is true that politics, economy, society, and culture differ from one area to another, humans are the same by nature all over the world in the sense that they pursue basically the same values such as comfort, safety, prosperity, power, peace, and so on. Therefore, it is also true that social theories developed in one area of the globe are at least partially applicable to politics, economy, society, and culture in other parts of the globe. Many social theories can be used to argue these points. In this paper, I would like to use international communication theories, more specifically, cultural imperialism theories, to make my points. This paper first describes the roots and the rise/fall of cultural imperialism theories. One of the problems of cultural imperialism theories is that whether “cultural imperialism phenomena” are results of something, such as colonialism in the past or a cause of some other phenomena, such as the loss of cultural identity. Another problem is that the arguments regarding cultural imperialism tend to be emotional not only because of the Marxist bias but also because of narcissism or cultural nationalism on the part of Western scholars. This paper will focus on these problems inherent in arguments on cultural imperialism and shed apolitical, empirical, and rational light on the so-called “cultural imperialism phenomena” based on the experiences in Japan as well as other East Asian countries.

Keywords: Cultural imperialism, Narcissism, Colonialism, Dependence, Cultural identity
Rhetorical Relations to Punctuation Marks of Selected Research Articles in the Context of Myanmar

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Abstract

Rhetorical Structure Theory is an essentially descriptive theory that aims to account for the rhetorical relations in texts. This research is an attempt to investigate rhetorical relations to punctuations in the selected research articles of Arts and science journal published in Myanmar. Punctuation consists of cue marks for joining and separating words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. The purpose of punctuation is to clarify what otherwise would seem vague or confusing to a reader. Punctuation marks used in the selected articles are observed to find out types of punctuation and rhetorical relations to punctuation to fulfil the objectives of this research. Research articles written by Myanmar researchers are selected to be analysed and then these articles are analysed with the theory of Segmented Discourse Representation Theory proposed by Asher 2003 &Lascarides 2007. Rhetorical relations are classified as Elaboration, Explanation, Narration, Continuation, Background, Foreground-Background Pair, Result, Alternation, Consequence, Def-Consequence and Question Answer Pair. In this research, SDRT is used to investigate how information can be conveyed through punctuations and to explore the semantic and discourse effects of punctuation in writing research report. In investigating Rhetorical Relations of punctuations, discourse relation of continuation and background are mostly used while discourse relation of elaboration is the second dominant figure. Six types of rhetorical relations such as Elaboration, Explanation, Continuation, Background, Alternation and Result have been also found in the selected articles. It is obvious that punctuation can give necessary information and the linguistic study of the discourse and semantic can affect the meaning and information of the articles.

Keywords: Segmented discourse representation theory, Rhetorical relations, Punctuations
An Analysis on the 21st Century Characteristics of Teachers in San Mateo Municipal College: Basis for Faculty Framework Development

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to determine the extent of the teaching skills/characteristics of the faculty members to propose a faculty development framework in order to equip well the students to be ready in encountering struggles in millennial times. The P21 framework for 21st century was developed with an input from teachers, education experts, and business leaders to define and illustrate skills and knowledge students need to succeed into the world of work, life and citizenship, as well as the support systems necessary for 21st century learning outcomes. The study concerns primarily to make an analysis of the 21st century characteristics of the teachers of San Mateo Municipal College to determine the extent of skills of its faculty members.

The descriptive method of research was used in this study with the questionnaire as the data gathering instrument. The said questionnaire was adapted from the article, “Teaching Meaningfully through Research” featured from the Magazine for the Professional Teachers, THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHER Volume VI Number 2, authored by Dr. Milagros L. Borabo, Program Director of CEU Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) and Executive Secretary of PAFTE-National. This was validated by experts from the private schools and by professors as well as by school leaders. The statistical tools used to treat the data were the frequency, percentage, the weighted mean and the chi-square test. The salient findings of the study revealed that all of the indicators of the characteristics are interpreted as to a large extent and very large extent which implies that the respondents possess basically the characteristics of 21st century teachers namely being the adaptor; the communicator; the learner; the visionary; the leader; the model; the collaborator; and the risk-taker that equates the demands of the present learners.

The variables age, gender and educational attainment have significant relationship with the 21st century skills/characteristics of the respondents while the other variables civil status, type of school employed in, level of education being taught, and teaching status are found to be not significant. This implies that the 21st century teachers can adapt to the needs and demands of the present learners regardless of their background.
It is recommended that the educational leaders should continually sustain the level of job commitment of the teachers to maintain the skills/characteristics of 21st Century Teachers. Furthermore, a faculty development framework was proposed by the researchers to maximize the potentials of the teachers.

**Keywords:** 21st Century Teachers, Teaching skills, Analysis
A Study for the Effective Team Building using LEGO® in PBL

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Abstract

In recent years, the use of the LEGO® block for education has attracted attention. Its main stream is a combination of LEGO® and ICT education. In this research, we report that we applied LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® [1] to PBL of software development on software department students, and they conducted effective team building. In utilizing the Lego block in the field of education, its effect is reported in nurturing mathematical thinking methods and computer programming education [2]. In this study, we analyzed the process of team building [3] [4] in PBL using the LEGO® and storytelling method. The main theme of workshop was design-thinking and lean-startup. And it required good relationships of team. But most computer science students usually shyness and they are not good at communications. But the workshop had just 5 days. So we needed to make the effective team quickly. LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® method is a method which expresses understandable words from implicit thoughts using LEGO® blocks. LEGO® blocks is very popular and easy to create something, so we decided to use LEGO® for our team-building of workshop. At first the students chose one piece of LOGO® as their each symbol. After the 1st day workshop they made their team symbol using their each symbol. And they introduced their team story including the goal image of last day. It was effect to understand what skills they have and what they expect for workshop. “Knowing each other” is the first step of team-building. The end of the next day workshop, they chose one other piece again as what they learned. And they add it on the team symbol as the growth of team. At last day, The LEGO(R) grew big as proof of their growth day by day and they completed a symbol as the collected studies of their learning on the last day. According to their questionnaire, this method was very effect to make their relationship quickly.

Keywords: Project based learning, Team building, Tackman model, LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®,
An approach to study of the utility of Electronic resources for Buddhist Studies

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Abstract

Electronic resources are two types. They are online e–resources and offline e–resources. An "electronic resource" is defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer. It includes electronic data available by (1) remote access and (2) direct access (fixedmedia). In other words: Remote access (electronic resources) refers to the use of electronic resources via computer networks. (AACR2, 2002 edition; glossary) Offline e-resources are CD–Rom, Tipitaka --CD, Mettanet – CD, Dhammapada–CD, Diskettes, VCD/ DVD, e–card. Online e-resources are Institutional & Personal website, OPAC & web OPACS, Electronic Databases e–publications, e–books, e–journals, and e–prints, e–articles. There are Encyclopedias, full-text journals, Newspapers, company information, e-books economic data “digital images” industry profiles, market, Research, dictionaries in electronic resources. This study focuses on how to use electronic resources for Buddhist Studies. Information of Buddhism can be found from Chaṭṭasāṅgayana CD, Dammapada CD and other Dhamma CD. Computer and internet facilities have been so familiar to the people. Therefore, Buddhism can be studied without books. As a web page, Buddha Net covers all Buddhist resources. There are Buddhist manuscripts, Suttas, Jataka tales, online courses and rare books such as Vimuttimagga. E – Library concept on web helps to the reader every time to find and search Buddhist sources. Pali Canon and other important Dhamma books are available as PDF, e-books, and e- journals in web pages. Such as Buddhist studies virtual library, Pali Text Society and Vipassana Research Institute. These Libraries provide access to a variety of electronic books as well as the other printed works (such as essays, poems, or historical documents). Some of these electronic books and texts are part of large, searchable databases.

Keywords: Electronic resources, Buddhist studies, Online resources, Religion library, Digital library
A Preliminary Study of Multi-grade Science Teaching in Primary School in Taiwan

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Abstract

Recently, the low birth rate gradually became a serious problem in Taiwan. The total number of students in each class or school showed a decreasing trend. The primary schools in rural areas of low population density are widely scattered and inaccessible and enrolments low. The number of students getting lower cause a lot of new teaching problems that teacher never awarded before including: the tension between students and teacher, the lower qualities and quantity of peer interaction, the more stress and anxiety in students' perception, and the limitation of pedagogical methods. So, there is an urgent need for maintain educational quality in rural primary school. A very large proportion of primary-level teachers throughout the world work in classes in which two or more grad levels together in one room are taught by on teacher. Multi-grade teaching is common teaching practice throughout the world, in both developed and developed countries. It is reliably predicted that the number of multi-grade classes will increase in Taiwan in the future. The ministry of education in Taiwan performed an multi-grade teaching project since 2014 to encourage primary school teachers in rural area to develop a more practical teaching module and to explore its impact on students' learning. The case school in the present study is one of the experimental school in that project. The purpose of the study was to investigate the feasibility of performing multi-grade science teaching in primary school. The variation of students’ argument ability and situational interest were analyzed too. Besides, we also explored the sources of students’ situational interest during the argument learning lesson. The case study method was adopted in this research. The subjects were eight upper grader students, two comes from fifth grade and six comes from sixth grade. Four students were assigned into one group for co-learning in a single 80-minute argument learning lesson. The argument learning lesson included four-units which students had learned before. The lesson was designed to facilitate their argument ability by using a structured sequence which consisted of four main phased: Demonstration, Construction, Discussion and Report. The self-designed instrument “Argumentation Ability Test, AAT” and “Sources of Situational Interest, SoSIT” were adopted in this study. The results indicated that all eight students were more involved in science learning and made significant progress on argumentation. The students' situational interest arousal was substantial but did fluctuate throughout the argument learning lesson. The students showed higher situational interest on the phase of discussion. Different science achieving students exhibit different situational interest forms in four
phases of argument learning lessons. The "Knowledge-based attribute" was main situational interest sources of higher achieving students' and the "Personal characteristic attribute" were lower achieving students' during the argument learning lesson. As mentioned above, there is a need for performing multi-grade teaching in Taiwan, but most teachers in rural school did not trained about the theory and practice of multi-grade teaching. In other word, the effectiveness and feasibility was not explored. In this study we perform the experimental argument learning module in a multi-grade class. Based on our study, the multi-grade teaching may be a possible way in science teaching in Taiwan.

**Keywords:** Argument learning, Multi-grade teaching, Situational interest
Abstract

Reading is a difficult skill to acquire, especially for learners learning a new language. Focusing on the reading fluency of three young readers from Tuaran, Sabah, this study aims to measure the participants’ CWPM by using song lyrics with animation. The improvement gained from this approach will then be used to measure their reading fluency of new and unfamiliar texts. Woodcock-Johnson’s Reading Fluency subtests were applied to standardize their fluency measurements. The young readers’ reading rate was monitored in three stages. Measurements were recorded daily and then compared. Discussions and observations were also conducted to validate the findings. Results suggest that the three young participants’ reading fluency can be enhanced through song lyrics with animation. The gain gathered from this was found to improve the participants’ reading fluency of new and unfamiliar texts. Using song lyrics with animation as an approach to reading had also increased their motivation in reading. In conclusion, combination of using songs with lyrics and animation as the reading material showed a positive motivation and helped students persevere with the task of increasing fluency which is similar to the studies proposed by Douville and Wood (2009) and Wong et al. (1994). The outcome of this study will benefit school language teachers, curriculum designers as well as textbook writers. However, future research may need to explore other methods of enhancing reading fluency as a means of offering teachers with more varieties of teaching techniques.

Keywords: Fluency, Songs, Lyrics, Reading, CWPM
Assessing HPV vaccinate intention with social norms among college students in Hong Kong: A pilot study

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Abstract

Cervical cancer, caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), is the ninth commonest death-related cancer among females in Hong Kong (“Centre for Health Protection - Cervical Cancer,” n.d.). HPV vaccines, though cannot HPV-associated cancers, is proved can significantly protect young women, aged 6 to 26 years old, from infection (WHO, 2014). Hong Kong government is one of the countries and areas which offer HPV vaccine to the public. However, in Hong Kong, the vaccinate rate is relatively low. Among young female students aged between 12-19 years, only one-third reported had an intention to vaccinate; whereas the taken rate was only 6.7% (Lee, Ho, Cheung, & Keung, 2014). Therefore, it is necessary to raise the acceptance of HPV vaccine among young students, especially female students.

When people can not be sure if a certain behavior is correct, they tend to refer to others’ behavior (Festinger, 1954). In other words, their perception of other people’s attitudes could influence their attitudes. According to the theory of reasoned action (Ajzen, 1980), individuals’ intention to perform a certain behavior is determined by their attitudes toward it and their normative beliefs, that is, their perception of others. Two types of social norms may be relevant to individuals’ intention: descriptive norm and injunctive norm. The former one refers to people’s perception about the prevalence of behavior; the latter one means the person’s perception of whether this behavior is approved by a particular group. College students, who are still developing their values, are easier affected by others, especially other students from the same university. The aims of this study are to test how social norms affect college students’ intention to vaccinate HPV vaccine from a health communication perspective.

Convenient sampling was used. Totally, 69 female college students were recruited in this study. The average age was 21.26±2.08 years old, ranged from 20-25. Individuals’ perception of descriptive norm (how many students in the university are willing to vaccinate), injunctive norm (other students’ attitude toward HPV vaccine), and intention to vaccinate were recorded. Other potential confounders, such as participants’ perceived threat to get sick, perceived pressure from other students if not vaccinate, and safety concerns were also controlled. Variables were measured on 5-point Likert scales.

A multiple regression was conducted. The overall model fit was $R^2=.26$, $F=3.57$, $p<.01$. The results indicated that people’s perception of injunctive norm (B=.38, SE=.17, $p<.05$), and their perceived threat (B=.25, SE=.09, $p<.01$) were statistically positively associated with their intention to vaccinate. However, their descriptive
norm and other proposed factors did not show any significant association with individuals’ vaccinate intention.

The findings suggested that, in Hong Kong, the perception of injunctive norm affect college female students’ intention to inject HPV vaccine effectively. That is when female students believe many other university students hold a positive attitude toward the vaccine, they are more likely to hold a positive attitude as well, and consequently, have higher intention to vaccinate. The effect of the injunctive norm was significant even when controlled other potentially influential factors, e.g., safety concerns, perceived threat and pressure. Previous studies suggested that people’s normative beliefs may affect by many factors. Once their perception has been changed, their behavioral attitudes and intention will be modified as well. That offered researchers an approach to increase the acceptance of HPV vaccine among young college students.

To concluded, this pilot study investigated the role of social norms on college students’ health-related behaviors. The findings supported the theory of normative social behavior roughly and may provide some insights to researchers who are interested in health communication.

**Keywords:** Vaccinate, Norms, Health communication
Assessing the Quality and Relevance of B.Eng (Hons) Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development (EESD)

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Abstract

Environmental engineering is expected to be a key growth area in the future, particularly in infrastructure development in the fast-developing Pearl River Delta Region. It is anticipated that the expansion in construction in the region will require immense manpower in the coming years. Following a department curriculum review in 2015 to convert B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental and Sustainable Development (ESD) programme to B.Eng. (Hons) in Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development (EESD) programme, the Department of Civil and Engineering (CEE) conducted a benchmarking exercise to assess the quality and relevance of the new programme, ensuring that it is comparable to those offered by its peers rated among the best by the international QS World University Rankings.

The CEE collected feedback from ESD graduates, advice from environmental consultants and relevant government departments and established that ESD would benefit from placing a stronger focus on environmental engineering. A new syllabus for the EESD has already been then approved and the programme will be launched in 2018. The key difference between the new programme EESD and ESD is that EESD aims to acquire accreditation by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) so that graduates of EESD will be fully recognized by HKIE in academic training and will become qualified professional engineers after receiving further training on the job.

The Department Academic Advisor believes it is necessary to measure the new EESD programme against similar programmes to assess its quality and competitiveness. And since that new programme EESD is to carry a greater weight on environmental engineering, it is important by comparing its objectives with the top environmental science or engineering programmes. A list of 13 universities including two local
institutions the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) offering similar environmental science or engineering programmes was selected for the benchmarking exercise. The exercise compares a broad range of course objectives, with a focus on professional accreditation (B.Sc. or B.Eng), awards and the syllabus. All programme details and aims were compiled from information found on university sites.

The benchmarking exercise found that the higher rated universities offer advanced engineering modules in their environmental programmes. In particular, there are three programmes: Applied Fluid Mechanics, Environmental Geotechnology and Environmental Geotechnology, that are often included. However, they are currently excluded in the new EESD programme. The new EESD programme may consider adding these programmes to boost its competitiveness based on the QS World University Rankings.

It is, however, important for EESD to meet the demands in the local market at the same time. The CEE has plans to seek feedback from local employers on the programme along with findings from the benchmarking exercise. Any recommendation made after the benchmarking exercise and employers’ response may lead to a modification to the new programme. A better and more informed programme catering for local needs is going to be a decisive factor for students when it comes to tertiary education. Taking the homegrown context into consideration, the new EESD programme should at least be on a par with those offered by HKU and HKUST and pertinent to the developments and challenges facing the local industry.

Keywords: Environmental engineering programme, Curriculum review, Benchmarking
Education of the Other Backward Classes in India

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Abstract

Education is not merely the teaching of shapes of alphabets and later on literature and theories, but a training of the pupils for a perfect operation of their minds and bodies and attaining true knowledge. It is the key factor in the development of human potentials. Every country gives due importance to her education system through which all types of challenges are possible to be faced, it is possible to reach all the people with the benefits of economic and technical developments through well-planned and well-implemented system of education. The links between education and reduction in the rate of population growth, between education of women and family health, between education and equitable economic growth, etc. are by now well-documented in many third world countries. Backwardness is expressed in lack of adequate opportunity for group and individual self-development, especially in economic life and in matters of health, housing and education. It is measured in terms of low levels of income, the extent of illiteracy, and the low standard of life demonstrated by living conditions. In the constitution Other Backward Classes are described as “socially and educationally backward class”. This backwardness is expressed in lack of adequate opportunity for group and individual self-development in areas of health, housing, education and economic opportunities upholding dignity of life. It is measured in terms of low levels of income, the extent of illiteracy, and the low standard of life demonstrated by living conditions. The chief amongst the underprivileged or specially handicapped groups are the scheduled castes, the scheduled tribal population groups which were known as criminal tribes and other groups that constituted the weaker sections. In the Indian Constitution the ‘Other Backward Classes’ are described as “socially and educationally backward class”.

Keywords: Education, Backward classes, India
The Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion: Constructs and Narratives on Citizenship, Nationalism, and Cultural Identity

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Abstract

Citizenship, nationalism and cultural identity are cross-cutting themes that shape and continuously configure groups, communities, and states. Those concepts proffer fertile ground for sites of contestation, construction and deconstruction of existing ensemble of ideas and system of meanings about belonging and wanting to belong. The consumption of those meanings and how those are produced and reproduced provide kernel thoughts that add to the complexity. The research delved deeply on respondents’ constructs of citizenship, nationalism, and cultural identity. Those concepts when understood in real situations and more focused lens can fuel a better understanding of identities. How such concepts are behaviorally expressed, and its corresponding symbols, are part of the exciting terrain of inquiry. Furthermore, the research also explored the respondents’ experiences of inclusion and exclusion on account of citizenship, nationalism and cultural identity, using their own contexts and social realities. The study employed a descriptive research design and qualitative approach. The respondents are Filipino citizens, at least 18 years of age, and are college students from Davao City schools located within the poblacion area. Twenty (20) in-depth interviews were conducted during the data gathering period. In the selection of respondents, the respondents came from various sex, religious, and linguistic categories in order to ensure the representation of various identities.

The results show the social constructs of citizenship are associated with concepts such as identity, sense of belonging, membership to a political community, conferment of political benefits and privileges, responsibility, loyalty, and compliance to laws. The narratives also indicate that citizenship is behaviorally expressed through habits, practices, beliefs, language, political and social involvement, use of Filipino products, enjoyment of benefits and privileges, freedom, and one’s geographic location. There are varied symbols of citizenship seen in legal, geographic, material and non-material dimensions. The social constructs of nationalism are captured by themes such as, patriotism, belongingness, contribution to one’s country, loyalty, race, as well as identity. Nationalism according to the respondents are expressed by supporting Filipino products, serving the country, compliance to laws, and showing the Filipino pride. Furthermore, language, culture, and traditions were also cited as ways by which nationalism can be articulated in behavioral terms. The material markers of nationalism are national flag, products, national symbols, including the ‘jeepney’. There are non-material markers of nationalism depicted through actions, practices, feelings and support to Filipino personalities with great achievements abroad. From the standpoint of the respondents, cultural identity means way of life, belongingness,
and distinct qualities of people, language, and dialect. Others viewed nationalism and cultural identity as identical terms. The behavioral expressions of cultural identity are best articulated through traits, and values, religion, language, and showcase of products.

Citizenship, nationalism, and cultural identity can include and exclude people. There are varied instances or experiences manifesting the sense of togetherness, unity, solidarity, as well as shared and collective sentiments of groups. However, exclusion also happens on account of citizenship, nationalism and cultural identity as there are instances showing the ‘otherness’, differences and assertion of various identities. Indeed, the research poses a challenge to rethink the concepts of citizenship, nationalism, and cultural identity. Such concepts are continuously experienced and witnessed in people’s daily lives and struggles. These powerful terms are forces behind actions, thoughts and movements including the search for and affirmation of identities.

**Keywords:** Citizenship, Nationalism, Cultural Identity
Investigating employees’ length of service and employee retention factors: Hotels in Cape Town, South Africa

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Abstract

Employee retention can be measured quite accurately with the actual number of years that employees have worked in an organisation. This study investigates relationships between hotel employees’ length of service and responses to individual variables explaining employee retention factors. A structured questionnaire survey of 217 hotel employees in Cape Town, South Africa was used to obtain information that were subjected to bivariate and multivariate analyses. Key results show that the employees who have worked longer in the hotel have particular characteristics: they perceive that working hours in the hotel do not infringe on their personal quality time with friends; they perceive it will be difficult for them to leave the hotel; they want to remain in the hotel for a long time; and quite interestingly, they perceive they do not receive continuous training in the hotel. Further costs of hiring and developing new employees can be reduced if loyal and talented employees are retained for longer periods through continuous career development. This study is of particular interest to the hotel sector management, as it is focussed on retaining those staff who really want to build a career in the hospitality industry.

Keywords: Employee turnover, Loyal employees, Long service, Hotel sector, Sub-Saharan Africa
Antecedents of employee retention: Hotels in Cape Town, South Africa

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Abstract

High turnover of employees in the hotel sector has been widely reported in academic papers. This high turnover has associated costs, such as financial costs, inconsistency in delivering service quality, and probable loss of customer loyalty. This empirical study investigates hotel employees’ responses to statements that relate to work conditions that support employee retention. Selected three, four and five star hotels in Cape Town, South Africa participated in this study. A structured respondent-completed questionnaire was used to collect data that were subjected to descriptive, bivariate and multivariate analyses. Result highlights suggest that hotel employees, dominated by the female population, are mostly not so desperate to leave their employment soon, however not many of them have worked in the hotel for more than five years. There are positive inter-correlations among ‘employee retention’ factor and other factors that relate to work conditions that support employee retention (compensation, employee development, work engagement, work relations, and working hours). Results also show that ‘strict supervision’, ‘long working hours’ and ‘perceived unfair salary’ are the top major concerns for hotel employees. This findings will enable hotel employers address employee concerns in order to curb the high employee turnover costs. Possible comparative research in other nations and continents will help establish cultural similarities and differences among nations or continents.

Keywords: Employee retention, Employee turnover, Cape town hotels, Hotel sector, Sub-Saharan Africa
Relating tourist activity and destination brand perception: Cape Town, South Africa

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Abstract

A respondent-completed questionnaire in Cape Town, South Africa was used to check how the activities that tourists enjoyed in Cape Town relate to how they perceive this destination using brand descriptive variables (brand essence, brand image and brand loyalty). 200 questionnaires were received for bivariate and multivariate analyses. This study finds that although tourists found most activities in Cape Town enjoyable; nature and outdoor, food and wine, and shopping enjoyment have more impact in determining the general experience satisfaction of tourists, than beach, and surprisingly, history and cultural activities. Nonetheless, tourists generally perceive Cape Town quite positively. From analyses, this study strongly suggests that the brand position statement for Cape Town should revolve around unique and diverse tourists’ attractions in Cape Town, and the memorable experience with which tourists go home from Cape Town. The brand position statement should be linked to Cape Town tourism’s integrated marketing communications. This study can assist tourism business owners in Cape Town to evaluate and improve tourism offerings to meet the expectations of visitors, contributing to visitors forming a positive perception towards Cape Town. The findings have implications for similar destinations in the developing economies.

Keywords: Tourism activity, Tourist experience, Destination brand perception, Cape Town, South Africa
Using multimedia technology and concept maps to reduce cognitive load: The role of cognitive style

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Abstract

Chandler and Sweller’s (1991) cognitive load theory and Baddeley’s 1998) working memory theory indicate that the human information-processing system consists of two separated channels and each channel has limited capacity – only a limited amount of cognitive processing can take place in the verbal (or visual) channel at any one time (Mayer & Moreno, 2003). Using inappropriate materials to teaching and learning may result in cognitive overload and therefore harm learning (Brüken, Plass, & Leutner, 2003). Therefore, how to design appropriate multimedia materials to reduce cognitive load is an important topic. Previous multimedia learning studies seldom discussed the effectiveness of combining multimedia technology with concept maps on reducing cognitive load and the role of cognitive style on multimedia learning and concept maps. The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of the combination of multimedia technology and concept maps on reducing cognitive load under considering the difference of cognitive styles of students. A true-experimental design was used. Seventy two students from College of Management in a university in Taiwan who have finished statistics participated in this experiment. Participants were randomly divided into four groups and each group has 18 students. Students in the three experimental groups used the material combining animation, narration and concept maps, the material combining animation and concept maps, and the material with concept maps to learn individually, while students in the control group used the traditional linear material to learn. A Group Embedded Figures Test (GEFT) with 18 items, which was developed by Witkin, Oltman, Raskin and Karp (1971), was used to measure students’ cognitive style. A nine-point Likert scale with a two item instrument called cognitive load scale, which was developed by Paas (1992), was used to measure students’ cognitive load level. A two-way (materials and cognitive styles) ANOVA (analysis of variance) was used to analyze the experiment data. The experiment results showed that students using the material combining narration, animation and concept maps, the material combining animation and concept maps, and the material with concept maps all show lower cognitive load than students using the traditional linear material. However, the cognitive load has no difference among the three experimental groups used the material combining narration, animation and concept maps, the material combining animation and concept maps, and the material with concept maps. The cognitive style of students does not moderate the effect of students using different materials on cognitive load.
The contribution of this study is to develop well multimedia learning materials to reduce students’ cognitive load problem. This study proved the worth of combining multimedia technology with concept maps to design multimedia materials to reduce cognitive load.

**Keywords:** Animation, Cognitive load, Concept maps, Multimedia technology, Narration
New Social Movement of Merchants Grocery against Modern Retail Expansion

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Abstract

Rural economic development in Indonesia cannot be separated from the grocery business as a small business that can sustain the local economy. In Sekaran village, grocery businesses owned by local communities growing rapidly along with the development of Semarang State University which is located in the area. But in recent years, the development of community-owned grocery business turnover decreased significantly after the entry of modern retail as Indomaret and Alfamart. These conditions make the grocer did make the association called the Society of Local traders Sekaran (PPLS). Being based on qualitative research this article aims to explain the Society of Local traders Sekaran (PPLS) against the expansion of modern retail. Data were collected through methods observation, interviews, and documentation and further processed and analyzed using the concepts of Anthropology. The results showed that: (1) The establishment of PPLS aims to strengthen solidarity, maintain business continuity of their economic, social control and make efforts towards the expansion of modern retail which is owned by the giant capitalism that threatens the existence of their businesses. (2) The resistance movement PPLS done by way of protest directly to the establishment of new outlets Indomaret and negotiations with the village head. They do in order to stem the penetration and expansion of giant capitalist class. (3) The marginalization of PPLS movement occurs on two main levels, namely at the level of government and community levels. At the government level, due to government regulations through Regulation Semarang Mayor Number 5 of 2013 has not sided with the grocer, whereas at the community level, their movement is only meant as a movement that is sporadic, incidental and reactive, and only a sound when there is a modern retail new will be built.

Keywords: Expansion, New Social Movement, Merchants Grocery, Modern Retail
Determinants of Capital Structure Choices and their Effect on Firm’s Leverage: A Case of Textile Sector of Pakistan

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Abstract

This study investigates the determinants of capital structure and their impact on the firm’s leverage. First, we use ordinary least square technique in order to diagnose and assess the relationship and importance of such variables. Second, analyze the fixed effects of independent variables on leverage and their relationship. Third, we analyze random effects for examining of cross-sections characteristics and their impact. We report that determinants of capital structure and their influence on firms leverage which elucidates about firm financing behavior and decision making style.

Keywords: Capital structure, Leverage, Generalized method of moments
Colonial Identity: A Review of Postcolonial Study in Plantation Female Labors

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Abstract

Plantation in Indonesia was built in colonial era. The development of tea plantations in West Java was constructing the identities for its workers. In this research, Postcolonial theory points out the way in which tea-picker female labors continued to be stereotyped and marginalized. Patriarchy culture produced double oppression on tea-picker female labour life. The oppression constructed the colonial identity on female labor. As an analysis of colonial concept, this paper could serve as a new insight for communication science and became a bridge to open another research about Gender and Postcolonial theory. Analysis covered the assumption of postcolonial theory: the colonial ruler had the power to shape attitudes and to perpetuate the status quo. The impact of the colonial law in plantation proved in the way of female labor’s living and working patterns in tea plantation. This research has revealed the identity of tea-picker females in colonial mechanism environment. The method is critical ethnography and researcher using depth interview to reveal the life of female labors that have been living in the plantation area for generations. The research pictured the struggled life of tea-picker female labours to overcome their problems and how their identity constructed socially. Conclusion of this research shows tea picker females’s action of communication reflected in their social life. It is a representation of the repressive identity and devided into three categories of colonial identity.

Keywords: Colonial identity, Postcolonial theory, Gender, Female labor
The Effect of Self Leadership and Self Concept Towards Commitment of Teaching Profession on Elementary Preservice Teacher

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Abstract

This study is aimed to explore the effect of self leadership and self concept towards commitment of teaching profession on elementary preservice teacher. Further investigation is to explore those relationship. Students of elementary preservice teacher are employed on this study. Structural equation modeling is used to analyze the data. It is suggested that different self leadership and self concept influence commitment of teaching profession on elementary preservice teacher. Implications of the result are discussed.

Keywords: Self leadership, Self concept, Commitment of teaching profession.
The China Connection: Key to building world-class private universities in Malaysia

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Abstract

This article explores the key issues and challenges of building world-class private universities in Malaysia. With China’s increasing investments in Malaysia, the latter could tap on the opportunities offered by the Chinese to build world class private universities in the country. Private universities in Malaysia need to restrategise their operations to tap on the areas where they could collaborate. The article has both theoretical and practical significance for private university leaders to follow.

Keywords: World-class universities, University leadership, China, Malaysia
A Success or A Failure: Adaptive Strategy of Affected People in Jatigede Dam Tourism Program

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Abstract

The basic purpose of a development program in one country is to improve people's welfare. The development of Jatigede dam supposed to have similar purposes as any development program. The dam construction was caused the loss of people’s land (terrestrial) and replaced it with a water/dam resource (aquatic). The interchange of resources, generate interchange of people’s livelihood. One of the potential sector to replace the source of livelihoods, is the water resource-based tourism sector (dam). This study intends to describe the adaptation strategies related to the tourism sector conducted by the affected people. This study uses a quantitative method, with a survey to 99 respondents. The results show that more than 50% of respondents are involved in the dam tourism activities. However, the survey also shows that tourism management has not yet conduct sufficiently. The study result shows that in one hand, tourism development can replace the livelihoods of affected people, but in the other hand, if not managed properly, it can threaten the sustainability of the whole dam’s operation. The applied of an adequate dam tourism program is needed in order to substitute the people’s livelihood. Nevertheless, it will be such a failure if the dam tourism program is not plan and conducted properly.

Keywords: Development, Dam, Affected people, Tourism.
Improving Elementary School Students’ Learning Performance on Web-Based Learning

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to explore the influences of web-based learning on elementary school students’ learning performance. Sixty Grade 5 to 6 students (n = 60, Mean age ± SD = 12.3 ± 0.83 years) were recruited in this study. The control group and experimental group each consisted of 30 students. The control group students need to learn about the dissolve concept from web pages and complete the homework assigned by the web pages by themselves. On the other hand, every three students in the experimental group were grouped in a team. The experimental group students also need to learn about the dissolve concept on web pages, and complete the homework assigned by the web pages, but worked in teams of 3 to complete it. All participants need to have a pretest about the dissolve concept, and all of them also need to join a posttest about the same concept after 3 weeks (45 minutes per week, total: 135 minutes). The test was a two-tier questionnaire. The students scored 3 points if they got both the correct answer and reason, 2 points for a wrong answer but correct reason, 1 point for a correct answer but wrong reason, and 0 for a wrong answer and wrong reason. There are 12 questions in the test, giving a total score of 36 points.

One science teacher (female, age = 32 years, 4 years of science teaching science) participated in this study, and was responsible for answering students’ questions after they learned the concepts completely from the web pages by themselves. The results in Table 1 show that the experimental group had significantly higher scores in the post-test than the pre-test. The control group also scored higher on the post-test than the pre-test, but without a significant difference.

The findings support that collaborative learning in a web-based learning environment improves elementary school students’ learning performance. Further implications are discussed in this study.

Keywords: Elementary school students, Learning performance, Web-based learning
The consequences of ageing people and emigration in Romania

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Abstract

The analysis of the demographic ageing phenomenon at a global, European and national level shows an increase of certain “problems” of elderly people with effects on the rest of the population and on the most important systems: economic, cultural, healthcare. Emigration is another important macroeconomic and social phenomenon which Romania is facing. The ageing population and emigration in Romania endanger the very future of the country itself. The research was carried out by combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The main objective of this paper is to draw attention to these phenomena and learn how to better manage these challenges.

Keyword: Ageing people, Emigration, Consequences
Academics’ Perceptions of Effective Teaching and Student Evaluation of Teaching

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Abstract

This paper reports on the results of a research study on academics’ perceptions of effective teaching and student evaluation of teaching (SET). It aims to provide information on how academics in an Asian setting perceive effective teaching and SET and subsequently compare them with those of the research from the Western countries. The report relates the findings and analysis to address five research problems, namely, (1) to identify the most important characteristics of effective teaching as perceived by academics; (2) to determine if academics differ in their perceptions of the most important characteristics of effective teaching; (3) to investigate the influence of staff background variables on the perceptions of the characteristics of effective teaching; (4) to investigate whether academics consider that students can make meaningful judgements of lecturers when students use the characteristics of effective teaching as a basis for judgement; and (5) to determine if academics differ in their perceptions of the appropriateness of students in evaluating the perceived most important characteristics of effective teaching. The results of this research add on to the literature of effective teaching and SET, and provide an Asian reference to these areas of research. The research results also have direct implications for the design of teaching methods and of teaching evaluation instruments.

Keywords: Effective teaching, Student evaluations of teaching
Disconnect in Higher Education: Triple Helix analyses approach

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Abstract

This paper aims to analysis the skill demand and skill gaps of higher education in low and middle income East Asia. Despite the higher education has potential in determining the competitiveness, it is not realizing its potential. This research deployed triple helix approach in accordance to uncover this phenomenon. It revealed five main disconnects among skill and research providers and users: between higher education institutions (HEIs) and skill users, between universities and firms (as research users) in the technology arena, between teaching and research (higher education and research providers), among Higher education themselves and higher education and tertiary level non formal or enterprise-based skill provision, and between higher education and prior education levels (two last categories represent disconnects between skill providers).

Key Words: Higher education, Triple helix, Disconnect higher education.
School attendance, gender and forced displacement in Colombia

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Abstract

The consequences of armed conflict on the civilian population has been extensively studied (Brown & Velásquez, 2015; Buvinić, Das Gupta & Shemyakina, 2013). Thus, several investigations show that armed conflict has negative long-term effects on the well-being of individuals (Akresh & de Walque, 2011; Buvinić et al., 2013; Ibáñez & Velásquez, 2008). Particularly, children and adolescents are identified as the most vulnerable population groups (Brown & Velásquez, 2015; Buvinić et al., 2013). Therefore, it is considered relevant to study the effects of the armed conflict on school attendance as a relevant aspect for understanding the costs of the armed conflict in the long term of this especially vulnerable population (Chamarbagwala & Morán, 2011). This research adheres to the literature that explores the impact of armed conflict on school attendance.

The armed conflict in Colombia has prevailed during the last three decades (Silva & Massey, 2015). The waves of assassinations, kidnappings, threats and other manifestations of the internal armed conflict have forced many people to abandon their lands and belongings (Gámez, 2013). By the end of 2015, about 13% of the Colombian population had been forcibly displaced from their places of residence (6.3 million people), occupying the second largest volume of internally displaced persons in the world (Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, 2016). A report on forced displacement presented by the Public Policy Follow-up Commission to the Constitutional Court in 2009, shows a high participation of children under 18 years of age in the total displaced population enrolled in the Single Registry of Displaced Population (55.1%), as well as the non-registered (51.6%); compared to 37%, that represent the minor population in the colombian population (Patiño & Herrán, 2012).

The forced displacement by the internal armed conflict in Colombia is related to a greater lack of school attendance of minors, since the attendance is reduced by 60% (Castillo, 2005). This greater lack of schooling has profound and persistent repercussions over time, because it intensifies poverty and social inequality (Gámez, 2013; Menéndez, Rosero, Lopera & Rojas, 2012). The purpose of this paper is to analyze the school attendance of children and young displaced persons in Colombia. For this purpose the estimation of a logistic model that determines the incidence of the condition of forced displacement in the probability of attending an educational
establishment is made. The information comes from Colombia’s 2010 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), which includes 51,447 households interviewed and 53,521 women between 13 and 49 years of age. The results show that the probability of not attending to school is higher if the children come from a family with a history of forced displacement and the a low-level education household, which has long-term impacts on the accumulation of human capital for this vulnerable population immersed in the poverty circle.

**Keywords:** School attendance, Forced displacement, Education, gender.
Mathematical Thinking as a Predicting Factor in Academic Success

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Abstract

The objective of this research paper is to examine how the development of formal and informal mathematical thinking skills predicts scholastic success. The variables included early mathematical knowledge, such as informal numeration, informal numerical comparison, informal numerical calculation, informal concepts, formal number reading and writing, formal concepts and variables in formal addition and subtraction tables, and formal numerical calculation, as measured through Ginsburg & Baroody’s (2003) TEMA-3, Test on Early Mathematics Ability. In this study, a one-year, two-year longitudinal study involved 67 children aged four (4) to five (5) years of age, who were enrolled in the transition grade from three schools of low socioeconomic strata in Colombia. Scholastic success was evaluated using the scores teachers gave students in the cognitive aspect, which included the subject of pre-reading and mathematics. It was observed that only in the first take, did early mathematical knowledge predict scholastic success. The findings of this research have important educational implications, taking into account mathematical thinking, as the main, decisive component in academic performance and in everyday life.

Keywords: Mathematical thinking, Academic predictor, Academic achievement, Academic success, Early mathematical knowledge.
Existential Anxiety and Free Time Activities in University Students

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Abstract

This correlational study intends to describe the symptoms of existential anxiety and its relation to freetime activities in a sampling of 100 university students in a city located on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. A method to measure existential anxiety was used and nine categories were related with the free time variable. The results of the study indicate that an average of 47% of the university students polled, presented varied, high and severe levels of anxiety symptomatology, when confronting existential situations related to freedom, existential isolation, death and lack of vital sense. Significant, statistical and meaningful relationships were observed between the psychological symptomatology and great intellectual ability and need of sleeping; between low assertive symptomatology and reading; between severe assertiveness and exercise; and between the severely physical symptomatology and exercise.

Key words: Symptomology, Anxiety, Free time activities, Basic sense of existence.
Quantum HRD, Anyone? A Postmodern Approach to HRD in Today’s Uncertain World

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Abstract

In order for Human Resource Development (HRD) to face challenges in the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world, acceptance and perception of multiple-realities, worldviews and paradigm shifts are necessary, especially in being a strategic partner and helping organizations drive to greatness. Quantum mechanics, a multi-paradigm approach and a postmodern epistemology are brought together to enable deep understanding of the problem and situation. This enables the HRD professional grasp the plurality of answers and multiplicity of theories, constructs, missions, beliefs, values and ideals that exist within HRD. This article, written in a narrative style, serves to inform as well as allow interpretation of context, highlighting how quantum entanglement and quantum skills can be applied to a variety of HRD interventions to create the quantum experience and desired outcomes of the expected interventions. Quantum HRD, anyone?

Keyword: Quantum mechanics, Human resource development, Quantum HRD, Quantum skills
Cultural representatives: staff identity at international university branch campuses

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Abstract

International branch campuses (IBCs) are a growing phenomenon in higher education. These overseas outposts of foreign universities transport aspects of the home-campus experience—and the chance to earn a home-campus degree—to satellite locations overseas. There are currently 249 IBCs operating worldwide, with a thriving trend toward parent universities in the U.S., U.K., and Australia opening branch campuses on other continents (Garrett, et al., 2016). These IBCs make a compelling promise to students: the chance to gain an international 'study abroad' experience, while still enjoying the comforts of home. Delivering on this promise is a complex undertaking, requiring leaders to transport not just educational offerings from the home campus, but identity features reflective of its image. The campus facilities, grounds and branded materials are examples of this, as are the IBC staff who interact with its students. Whether sourced from the home campus, host country, or internationally, student-facing staff at overseas campuses must perform the challenging role of representing the home institution—and to some extent, its country—to students. This paper highlights the complexities of performing this representation and suggests principles of identity theory that provide a useful lens for exploring this topic.

Keywords: International branch campuses, Cultural representation, Identity theory.
Fiscal Decentralization in the City Government of Bandung

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Abstract

Fiscal decentralization has provided opportunities for local governments to generate their local own revenue (PAD), to manage their own finance, and to use it according to the stipulated plan. Bandung as one of metropolises in Indonesia and also as a city that has the potential of creative industries is demanded to increase its local own revenue to meet the public preference for public services. With a population of 2,481,146 Bandung City has the opportunity to increase the potential of its local own revenue. This research would identify how fiscal decentralization has been conducted in Bandung City by observing four aspects of the concept of fiscal decentralization, namely self-financing/cost recovery in public services, public participation in the form of service payment, the increase in local own revenue, and transfers from the central government to local governments. This research applied the qualitative method to analyze the financial data of the City Government of Bandung for the last three years. The result of the research showed that fiscal decentralization of Bandung city has run effectively because of the improvement in the City Government of Bandung’s ability in self-financing, the improvement in public participation, and the increase in local own revenue for the last three years. The policy of the City Government of Bandung to be a Creative City has become the pushing power in the effectiveness of the implementation of fiscal decentralization in Bandung City. The economic potential generated by creative industries of Bandung City has been able to drive the city’s economy.

Keywords: Fiscal decentralization, Self-financing, Public participation, Creative city
Comparative Study on Islamic Tourism Development in Indonesia And Malaysia

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Abstract

Islamic tourism recognized as growing tourism industry in the dynamic of global economic. Indonesia and Malaysia are the symbol of Muslim majority population considered as the potential country in cultivating Islamic tourism around the globe. This paper discusses the Islamic tourism development in Indonesia and Malaysia. It attempts to investigate the challenge and the opportunity in the response of emerging Islamic tourism as global economic growth prospect.

Keywords: Islamic tourism, Economic growth, Tourism development.
Acompañamiento Pedagógico en escuelas vulnerables de Chile

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Abstract

De acuerdo a lo planteado por Montero (2011), el acompañamiento pedagógico debe concebirse como una estrategia formativa en la que se asesora personalmente al docente en su ámbito de trabajo, en su práctica cotidiana y a partir de sus necesidades específicas se genera un proceso continuo y sostenido, intencional, organizado y sistemático de diálogo, de relación horizontal, donde prima el compromiso y la disposición personal para reflexionar sobre los aprendizajes de los estudiantes y las prácticas docentes.

El término de acompañamiento pedagógico se utiliza cada vez con más fuerza en el sistema educacional chileno. La actual política educativa exige a los directivos escolares realizar acompañamiento pedagógico a los profesores de las escuelas. Sin embargo, se tienen concepciones muy distintas de este proceso y muchas veces distan de su verdadero significado, volviéndose una alternativa para disfrazar procedimientos tradicionales que solo buscan el control y/o la supervisión de las prácticas educativas y que tiene connotaciones negativas para la mayoría de los docentes (Maureira, 2015).

El objetivo de esta comunicación es describir las modalidades de acompañamiento pedagógico y proceso de retroalimentación que realizan los directivos intermedios (Jefes de Unidad Técnica Pedagógica) a los docentes. Para cumplir con dicho propósito se desarrolló un estudio cualitativo, descriptivo, con aplicación de una entrevista semiestructurada (Flick, 2004) a cuatro Jefes de la Unidad Técnica Pedagógica y diez y seis profesores del primer ciclo de Educación Básica de 4 centros escolares de la ciudad de Valparaíso.

Los resultados de este estudio muestran como los Jefes de la Unidad Técnica Pedagógica de las escuelas aplican mayoritariamente un tipo de acompañamiento pedagógico bajo la modalidad de Observación al aula, no participante. Los profesores también reconocen como acompañamiento pedagógico solo la observación al aula y le otorgan un rol de supervisión y no de desarrollo profesional docente.
Respecto del proceso de retroalimentación del acompañamiento docente, los jefes de Unidad Técnica Pedagógica tienden a prescribir acciones o informar al docente sobre lo que está haciendo mal o bien. No se observó una intencionalidad en la retroalimentación de desarrollar un proceso reflexivo, metacognitivo, que medie para que el profesor asuma críticamente su acción pedagógica y contribuya realmente a su desarrollo profesional.

La literatura sobre observación de clases es coincidente al señalar que el sistema actual de observación en el aula se centra de manera tangencial en mejorar el desempeño y las prácticas de los profesores. Esto porque la mayoría de los Jefe de UTP considera que la observación de aula y retroalimentación son parte de sus obligaciones contractuales, y es una tarea difícil de realizar especialmente cuando son consumidos por otras demandas (Spillane & Lee, 2014).

Finalmente, los resultados de este estudio contribuyen a ejemplificar cómo se pueden describir cambios en la calidad del acompañamiento pedagógico que realizan los Jefes de Unidad Técnica Pedagógica. Además, al utilizar modelos teóricos de acompañamiento pedagógico y de retroalimentación que proveen herramientas heurísticas para movilizar prácticas en los Jefes de Unidad Técnica Pedagógica. Estas propuestas de análisis pueden ser utilizadas en programas de formación de Jefes de Unidad Técnica Pedagógica en escuelas que busquen mejorar la práctica del acompañamiento pedagógico para fortalecer las prácticas de los docentes y el aprendizaje de los estudiantes.

**Keywords:** Acompañamiento Pedagógico, Jefes de la Unidad Técnica Pedagógica, Retroalimentación
Music Education, Culture, and Identity: The Interplay between Globalization and Nationalism in Hong Kong School Music Education

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Abstract

This paper will explore and compare the dynamics and complexity of relationships between the state, nationalism, and globalization in Hong Kong that are reshaping music education in response to contemporary sociopolitical changes. The process of globalization articulates and is mediated by local and national forces, histories, and social changes. Meanwhile, the two histories of China and colonial Hong Kong have served to make the classroom a microcosm of the struggle for music culture and identity between Hong Kong values and Chinese nationalism. The state of Hong Kong has attempted to strengthen the cultural understanding of traditional Chinese music in the school curriculum against a background of modernization and globalization. By recognizing both globalization and nationalism, we can stimulate values of pluralism and emphasize cultural diversity through school music education. The paper will begin by challenging contemporary debates concerning music genres taught in school education, asking two key questions about the dynamics of developing a culturally relevant curriculum for students in Hong Kong: (1) how is music introduced in school music education? and (2) what are the challenges to the incorporation of traditional Chinese music, Western classical music, and other world music into the classroom? This paper will argue that the music curriculum in Hong Kong raises more fundamental questions than answers concerning the integration of national and other diverse music cultures into music classrooms. It will also assert that the reform of music education is not only about changes in the forms and contents of the curriculum, but also changes in how a society concerns its cultural and political developments. Finally, this paper will consider the contradictory demands of political and cultural forms of globalization, between globalization and nationalism. Sources of data will include government documents concerning relevant literacy, education policies and curricula, music curriculum guidelines, textbook materials, and other literature.

Keywords: Music education, Identity, Globalization and nationalism
Student Attrition: A Study of Risk Factors in an International University

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Abstract

Increasing pressure on Thai private universities to retain their students in the wake of decreasing student enrollment, demographic changes, and direct competition from public universities calls for them to address more systematically plans and action for student retention. The purpose of this study was to determine risk factors that affect student retention at an international university in Thailand. First year undergraduate students (N=2,193) were surveyed for factors related to student attrition. The survey was conducted both online and distributed on campus to a cohort of first year students. A 5-point scale survey instrument was constructed around five categories of factors related to student attrition according to the theoretical literature: Academic Factors, Social Factors, Motivational Factors, Faculty Factors, and University Factors. A multiple regression model was employed to assess the predictive ability of the five factors plus students’ reported high school GPA and their concern with ability to pay tuition. The multiple regression analysis yielded significant results for the following factors: Social, Motivational, and University factors, entering GPA, and concern with ability to pay tuition. Results suggest that a combination of attention to traditional components of student attrition factors and a systematic review of institutional specific factors may be the optimal approach to inform institutional retention practice.

Keyword: Student retention, Attrition, International university
Dichotomy of the ‘Clip Thinking’ Phenomenon

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Abstract

The paper describes the phenomenon of ‘clip thinking’ from interdisciplinary perspective. Clip thinking is regarded as a process of reflecting a multitude of various properties of objects, without taking into account the relationships between them, characterized by fragmented information flow, illogicality, heterogeneity of incoming information, high speed of switching between fragments of information as well as the lack of a holistic perception of the surrounding world.

The phenomenon of clip thinking is essentially synonymous with the concept of ‘cognitive style’. The ‘differential / integral’ cognitive styles are associated with individual features of students’ digestion of the teaching material. Students with integral type of cognitive style tend to rely on educational technologies built on the principle of transition from abstract to concrete, whereas students with differential type of cognitive style are inclined to learn from a specific focus to a general one.

Within the context of clip thinking, we need to: revise the content of the learning material; organize information in the form of clips; modify the format of information presentation; and apply bright, clear and visual presentations with clear, imaginative and catchy formulations. The application of common teaching methods together with e-learning technologies will increase the efficiency of the learning process as well as significantly enhance students’ professional training.

Key words: Clip, Clip thinking, Zapping, Blip culture, Cognitive style.
What are “effective” pedagogical practices? From the perspectives of 21st century student learning

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Abstract

Over the years, a question has been risen as to “What are effective pedagogical practices?” This question has been controversial in the field of education. In this paper, we present a theoretical synthesis of the specialized literature in the field of learning and teaching. In doing so, we seek to examine what effective pedagogical practices are, particularly from the perspectives of 21st century student learning. A discussion of the question of whether student-centred methods is more or less effective than traditional approaches is also presented. Our paper brought important messages for policy makers, curriculum designers, educational researchers and teachers when they review, evaluate and rethink pedagogical practices at school.

Keywords: 21st Century student learning, Effective pedagogical practices, Student-centred, Teacher-centred.
Diversity and Higher Education: A Qualitative Exploration of Identity Development in Lebanese Universities’ Students

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Abstract

University students of Arab countries after the Arab Spring and especially the Lebanese are embracing diversity in its multiple forms. Although diversity is counted as an important institutional value, but students’ definition of the term and its goals differ from one campus to another. The work of many researchers suggests positive results related with diverse student populations and curricular and extra-curricular activities that address the topics of ethnicity, diversity and gender (Hurtado 2007; Chang, Denson, Saenz & Misa 2006). This paper will take a closer look at how diverse campuses affect students’ sense of identity and how those identities develop and interact. 140 university students from two diverse Lebanese universities (private and public) were interviewed to respond to Chickering’s multiple components of identity (1969) and how different experiences contributed to its formation. The qualitative results revealed that campus environments (peers, courses, activities…) exerted negative and positive effects on their identity formation and place in society. The paper suggests that universities encourage students to engage actively with diverse students to contribute in the development of our world. In the end, a summative idea about the importance of diversity and identity development will be explored with few recommendations.

Keywords: Diversity, Higher Education, Identity
Everybody values education, but I am disgusting with teaching: An exploration of teachers’ perception of job satisfaction

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Abstract

Albeit the concept of job satisfaction is well entrenched in business and management research studies, there is a vacuum and piecemeal approach into educational settings. The factors determining job satisfaction of teachers are inclined to country-culture specific nature thereby this study was designed to unearth teachers’ perception of job satisfaction from a neglected social and cultural milieu. Anchored in philosophical assumptions, this research adopted interpretivist-inductive approach. Using a purposive sampling technique, a total of twenty three informants was chosen from the teaching profession and the required data were garnered from semi-structured interviews. This study found the factors determining teachers’ job satisfaction, viz., economic conditions, relationship with principals and colleagues, students’ behaviour, loosen policy towards students’ discipline, responsibility of parents, salary, teaching facilities, working environment, teachers training, teacher transferring policy, school holidays, familiarity with teaching, promotion policy, educational policies and status in society and those subsumed into tripartite form: cultural factors, economic factors, and national factors. This study unequivocally contributed to the frontiers of teachers’ job satisfaction literature and flagged up the avenue for the future research.

Keywords: Teachers’ job satisfaction, Educational settings, Country-cultural factors
Examining the effect of High -Performance work Practices on Employee attitudes: Evidence from Hotel industry in the post war context in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

This study examined the effect of High -Performance work practices on Employee attitudes in hotel industry of Sri Lankan context. Questionnaire was used to collect the data. Purpose of the research was discussed with participants. Initially discussion was conducted with 200 employees who voluntarily participated in this study from Hotel sector, finally 175 participants agreed to fill out the questionnaire. Of the selected sample 150 questionnaires was complete and usable for this study. Correlation and regression analysis was performed to test the hypothesized relationship. Findings of the study indicated that Employees’ perception of high -Performance work practices positively related with intention to remain with organization, further study found positive relationship between employees’ perceptions of high-performance work practices and affective commitment; furthermore, study found that affective commitment mediated the relationship between high performance work practices and intention to remain with organization.

On the basis of these findings, managerial implications of the study and future research direction were highlighted.

Keywords: High-Performance work practices, Employee attitudes, Affective commitment, Intention to remain with organization, Hotel industry.
The use of video learning resources for educational purposes: A mini survey study exploring the attitudes of Performing Arts undergraduates

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Abstract

In classical classroom settings face-to-face teaching and demonstration is a very common practice in many disciplines including that of Dance. Recently, the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) at the University of the Visual & Performing Arts started an external degree program that offers Bachelor of Performing Arts degrees in dance. Students are taught the fundamentals of this subject through the face-to-face mode of teaching while additional learning resources are made available to them through the use of a Learning management System (LMS). A collection of teaching materials consisting of practical lessons in their chosen genre of Dance ties are provided in both audio and video formats. However, as far as the researcher is aware, there has been no research conducted in order to evaluate the efficacy of the use of technology for learning purposes in this particular subject area and very little analysis of the students attitudes towards the teaching and learning of traditional Sri Lankan dances through e-learning in Sri Lanka. Hence, this research aims to fulfill this information gap. Objectives of this study were to evaluate the effect of the use of instructional video learning material regarding the practical aspects of these dance forms and gage the students’ willingness to practice dance items outside the classroom (effective use of notional hours). It also aims to investigate students ‘perceptions regarding the use of video learning materials in distance learning education. Data for this study was obtained from a questionnaire and data was collected from second year undergraduates in 2015. Simple random sampling method was used as the sampling technique to select students and the sample size was 100. The Likert scale with scores ranging from 1 to 5 was used to measure each question. The data were analyzed by using the statistical package SPSS and a statistical analyses was conducted to tabulate the data. The research explored student’s attitudes towards the use of video learning materials in an online platform and how it has contributed to their learning experiences. The findings revealed that 84.5% of the students think this method was an effective way of learning the practical aspects of the dance forms they studied. The high user rate suggests that students broadly accept and use video learning material as a form of instruction and as a supplementary material that can be adapted for study purposes outside the traditional classroom setup.

Keywords: Dance, Learning Material, LMS
Institutional Readiness for K to 12 Implementation (Junior High School Level) of San Juan National High School, Philippines

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Abstract

The Philippines has implemented the biggest educational reform in the country, the K to 12 Program as mandated by Republic Act 10533. Under the lead agency, the Department of Education, schools throughout the country have implemented the enriched basic education curriculum. This descriptive study primarily determined the institutional readiness of San Juan National High School specifically in implementing the Junior High School (Grade 7-10) in terms of facilities, faculty, instructional resources or materials and financial resources during its pilot implementation. Data were gathered from survey of students, teachers and officials using a questionnaire, and documentary analysis of institutional reports and other official documents. Over-all results revealed that the school is moderately prepared in terms of faculty, facilities and financial resources, and slightly prepared in terms instructional resources or materials. Salient challenges pertain to the extent of attainment of the content standards and performance standards as prescribed by the new curriculum, adequacy of instructional resources or materials, adequacy and quality of teacher’s trainings, financial constraints as well as parents’ attitude towards the new curriculum. The study recommends an action plan to address the challenges encountered during the pilot implementation of the Junior High School from school year 2012-2016.

Keywords: K to 12 Curriculum, Junior high school, Institutional readiness, Public school
Agro Farm Environmental Sustainability and the Myth of Uses and Misuses of Agrichemicals’ in Agriculture Food Productions

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Abstract

This paper is attempted to look into the uses and misuses of rural farmers’ agrichemicals in agriculture food production and agro farm environmental sustainability. Application of agrichemicals also has vast effects on ground water, conservation of ecosystem especially in a developing country like Malaysia. Agrichemical such as artificial fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides; pesticide and insecticides in a holistic manageable of rural farmers’ agriculture food production could benefited mankind and adversely could also cost human hardship upon consumptions and detrimental to natural habitat; soil and eco-system conservation as well as climatic change. Eco-sustainable minimal or chemical free tropical agriculture food crops production not only will reap in profits in upgrading income and livelihood for rural farmers and create a good eco friendly and sustainable environment in developing countries. There are significant differences on the use and misuses of rural farmers’ agrichemical applications towards the agriculture food production and conservation of ecosystems in developing countries around the tropical regions.

Keywords: Agriculture chemicals, Agriculture, Conservation, Food production, Sustainability
Association between Nursing Staff Retention Strategies and Job Satisfaction in a Teaching Hospital

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Abstract

Nursing shortage has been negatively impacted care quality and stability of many healthcare organizations. To improve job satisfaction and mitigate the shortage, many hospitals have implemented flexible working or employee retention policy. The study was to evaluate retention strategies used in a southern community regional teaching hospital, in which nursing leadership became clinical mentors for new nurses, incentives were given to clinical mentors, and nursing skill mix was utilized to reduce working overtime. The primary outcome was to compare job satisfaction before and after the flexible retention strategy. We were also looking into traits and associations with job satisfaction or its risk factors.

A standardized pre-post questionnaire covered flexible working section and job retention section. 110 nurses totally participated in the convenient sampling study. Descriptive analysis, pair t-test, ANOVA and multi-regression were used in data analysis. Seventy eight nurses completed the survey. When we analyzed the six domains of job satisfaction and found the proper order was leadership flexibility, divisional flexibility, functional flexibility, numerical flexibility, wage flexibility and temporal flexibility. When we compared the job satisfaction before and after the nurse retention strategy then found leadership and wage flexibility reach statistical significance. In the one way analysis of variance, the job satisfaction did not associate to seniority, marriage, educational level, leader or not, and ward characteristic. The job satisfaction positive associate with nursing ladder program, clinical teacher, and personal religion. In the multi-Regression analysis, the results showed that two factors of Nurses' job satisfaction (administrative position, Buddhist and Taoist believers) have significant effects but low explanatory power on numerical flexibility and temporal flexibility, indicating that other important factors may need further investigation.
The findings of this study might provide health policy maker and nursing leadership a better understanding of nursing satisfaction and the retention program, and help to improve a healthy nursing work place and clinical quality of care.

**Keywords:** Staff, Retention strategy, Teaching hospital, Nurse, Job satisfaction
American Dream Re-Imagined: Adult Education in the 21st Century and Beyond

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Abstract

The diversity of community colleges’ student population requires a shift in educational programming to satisfy the demands of the evolving workforce and academia. Some of the changes had been successful in increasing the rates of student retention, persistence and completion of programs of study and also showed promise in terms of student retention and completion of degrees and credentials. Many participants were adults returning to school after stopping out, immigrants lacking English fluency and basic skills, students of color, first in their families to go to college, and other groups who had limited access to higher education. Mostly housed in community colleges or community-based organizations and in partnership with other stakeholders, these educational initiatives offered access to education which provided adult students the academic and employment skills needed for the 21st century and beyond. Though some were difficult to implement, they nevertheless showed that collaborations among different entities can result in meaningful education for adult students. For example, contextualized curricula and interdisciplinary, theme-based instruction connect students to real-life situations; while bridge programs shorten their time-to-degree completion. Academic planning, career advising and tutoring likewise provide student support. Salient to the success of these initiatives were inter-department collaboration among faculty members, deans and leaders from the businesses; convenient class scheduling for adult students, mandatory career advising and academic planning, and faculty professional development. For those who still believe in education as the gateway to the American Dream, it is possible if they focus on completing their education and with others’ help and support.

Keywords: Higher education, Bridge programs, Adult education
Does Organizational Commitment Bring About Adaptive Performance? Evidence from Healthcare Organizations in Indonesia

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Abstract

The implementation of Health Insurance – National Social Security System in Indonesia brings implications in the occurrence of changes in healthcare organization. Individuals and organizations are required to respond to these dynamic and changing situations. The physicians are forced to get out of the comfort zone and make many adjustments not only in their works, but also in many aspects in their life. On these situations, adaptive performance is crucial for physicians to succeed in light of new or altered task demands. Adaptive performance is a facet of performance that reflects acquiring enhanced competencies in response to change. Facing with this uncomfortable situation, the physicians’ organizational commitment will determine their ability to adapt with change. We developed and then test a research model that incorporated organizational commitment and adaptive performance. The purpose of this research is to examine the effect of organizational commitment to adaptive performance among physicians on Private Hospitals. We distribute questionnaires to doctors working at two private hospitals – one profit and one not for profit private hospital - in Indonesia. The data collection is still on progress during this abstract submission.

Keywords: Adaptive performance, Organizational commitment, Healthcare, Physicians, Indonesia
A Characterization of Junior High Students with Anxieties towards Learning Mathematics

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Abstract

This work is concerned with the assessment of difficulties felt by Japanese junior high school students who feel anxiety towards learning mathematics. More specifically, the aims of this work are (i) to understand how the awareness differs across the grades and gender; (ii) to get some insights into the characteristics of the students who feel anxiety towards mathematics learning activities by using conjoint analysis. To accomplish these purposes, a survey study based on the conjoint analysis method with conjoint cards expressing three attributes, each composed by two levels was designed to assess the students’ perceptions of ‘being good at’ and ‘being not good at’ towards the learning modules of mathematics classified as ‘algebra calculation’, ‘functions’, and ‘geometrical figures’. The data collection was carried out at a typical public junior high school, and only respondents who reported being ‘not good at’ mathematics were extracted for analysis. There were 276 eligible respondents (89 first-year, 76 second-year, and 111 third-year, aged 12 to 15 years) out of 616 answerers in total. The data processing consisted first of clustering the respondents according to their answers, and then application of conjoint analysis on these groups to pursue their characteristics. It turned out that there were differences in the perceptions of difficulties for the three learning areas of mathematics. Moreover, more than half of the respondents have perceptions of difficulties for each learning area. The contribution of this paper is that these findings may provide some clues and a method to understand the issues related to the difficulties that students have in learning mathematics in school.

Keyword: Mathematics education, Conjoint analysis, Clustering, Japanese junior high school students
The Impact of School Environmental Factors to the Motor Development of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Pinaglabanan Elementary School, San Juan City

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Abstract

Environment has a big impact to every child's development. It can affect their social, emotional or physical development. Thus, this study aims to determine the impact of the school environmental factors to the motor development of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The study is both descriptive and qualitative in nature. It restricted its respondents only to the administrator, SpEd teachers and parents/guardians of the students. And it has been limited to the use of self administered survey questionnaire and interview questionnaire. A cross sectional study design was utilized to determine the impact of the school environmental factors to the motor development of students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) ages 5 to 12 years old that were under the school year 2013-2014 in Pinaglabanan Elementary School San Juan City, Philippines. Based on the summary of the impact of environmental factors on the motor development of students with autism assessed by the school administrators and SPED teachers it resulted with the average impact ($X = 2.3$) and likewise, the parents strongly agreed the same level of impact was also on the average, ($X =2.66$), respectively. Given that, in Special Education the environmental factors should not be taken for granted. This should be included in the school’s main priorities for improvement. The school administrator should review and check the different school environmental factors and its importance. The evaluation of the school environmental factors should be strengthened. Concrete evaluation of the motor skills of the students should then be done and properly documented.

Keywords: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), motor development, school environment
The need of conservation policies convergence in urban context: from a sociopolitical analysis proposal in Mexico

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Abstract

In the current context of increasing environmental degradation experienced by ecosystems at global, regional and local levels, the conservation and maintenance of ecosystems occupies a relevant place in decision-making and land management processes, especially in urban environments. This is due to the fact that almost half of the world population lives in cities (Nelson, 2005: p. 74) and Mexico is not unaware of this world dynamics, since its population is eminently urban. The decision to preserve protected natural areas already decreed, as well as to define new ones to achieve the maintenance and provision of various ecosystem services, is the result of a socio-political decision-making process. This process is promoted by different social actors who define why it is relevant to conserve these spaces, under what conditions and with what instruments.

In Mexico the conservation of nature is a matter of public interest. Both, declarations of protected natural areas and conservation of ecosystem or environmental services through the implementation of economic compensation instruments, seek to contribute to that purpose. In this work my interest is to elaborate a state of the art on environmental or ecosystemic hydrological services and its relation with the natural protected areas located in urban spaces in Mexico. I focus on analyzing the elements that allow understanding both conservation strategies from a sociopolitical perspective. The analysis is divided into four topics, the first, outline the contexts in which these conservation strategies emerge in the world and in Mexico; second, discusses definitions about the concepts of ecosystem and/or environmental services, the agreements and the controversies that have aroused by the use of these terms. In third place, analyzes the general trends in the scientific production of environmental and ecosystem services in the world and in Mexico, and then it relates to the analysis of protected natural areas. In fourth place, discusses the elements that could contribute to analyze the sociopolitical perspective of conservation in urban contexts in Mexico.

This work was carried out based on the review of published scientific information on environmental or ecosystem services in urban contexts and its link with protected natural areas, both internationally and in Mexico. It were revised the following scientific databases: 1) Scopus (www.scopus.com) which reports internationally published scientific information and 2) Redalyc (www.redalyc.org) and Scielo (www.scielo.org) which are databases oriented to scientific production in and about Latin America. The terms sought were: "environmental services", "ecosystem services", "protected natural areas", "hydrological environmental services", "hydrological ecosystem services", "protected natural areas" and “urban areas”. Some
of the main results are that natural and peri-urban protected natural areas, generate public and social values, should enjoy greater political visibility in territorial, urban, and environmental decision-making processes and public policy instruments.

Conservation understood as a course of action, needs to integrate and reconcile environmental and urban policy with a public and social sense. These topics cannot remain independent to each other, much less respond to economic processes that promote social inequity and environmental degradation. On the contrary, they should be considered as interacting and complementary elements in the formulation of land management programs and policies, which facilitate the involvement of society. The sociopolitical analysis of the conservation of hydrological environmental services and their relation with protected natural urban areas is a field of analysis that deserves to be studied in greater depth, since conservation actions have their origin in political decisions to make the public and social interest.

**Key words:** Sociopolitical studies, Conservation policies, Hydrological environmental services, Urban protected natural areas, Metropolis, Mexico
Characterization of the Japanese Social Concerns with Health and Care for Natural Disaster Vulnerable in an Eventual Catastrophe

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Abstract

This work aims to characterize the social concerns related to health and caring for vulnerable people that Japanese adults are faced with in an eventual natural disaster strike. To accomplish it, firstly, a review of the literature related to disasters and calamities containing testimonies and reports of rescuers, medical staff, social workers, government members, victims, volunteers, witnesses and others was carried out in order to grasp an overall picture of the issues regarded to health and care for vulnerable people taking temporary refuge in evacuation centers and shelters; secondly, a survey consisting of questionnaires spanning over the topics found in the literature research was prepared and field work was conducted on 90 residents of Tohoku region, which locates in the northeastern part of Japan and is a natural hazard-prone area. Then, the data was modeled on the grounds of structural equation modeling (sem) frame of reference, for which statistical software application R was used. Finally, the findings were discussed within the scope of current social situation in Japan.

Keyword: Social concerns, Natural disaster, Vulnerable people, Model characterization
Some Insights into the Attitudes of Young People towards Contents of the Traditional Media and Social Networking

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Abstract

This work is aimed at understanding the feelings of Japanese young people toward the contents spread out by the traditional media as TV and magazines, and social media represented by social networking systems (SNS) running over the internet in what concerns to the importance, influence and credibility levels that viewers feel when interacting with them. In order to shed some light on these issues, a survey research on the grounds of seven-point Likert questionnaires to evaluate many a facet of the interactions that young people have with these on- and off-demand streams of information was carried out at a college in northeastern region of Japan with 161 respondents in all. Yet, the study focused essentially on contents related to entertainment, fashion and daily living. The implicit factors and their relationships were pursued by means of exploratory factor analysis followed by further structural analyses, in which the model dimensionality probing was performed with ‘Iclust’ function whereas model reliability with ‘omega’, both implemented on statistical computation software R and included in its add-on package ‘psych’. The models were evaluated according to their performance indices and correlation index values between the latent variables and surveyed items. Finally, the models chosen to express the youth’s attitudes were discussed in the context of their current social behavior toward information driven society and social cognitive theory.

Keyword: Traditional media, Social media, Exploratory analysis, Social system modeling
Pursuing Growth in Knowledge Based Economy

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Abstract

This paper attempts to analyze the most recent policies and trends in South Korean and Singaporean higher education. The main objective of this comparative analysis is to show similarities between South Korean and Singaporean strategies for their higher education structures, despite striking differences between the emergence levels of the two higher education systems. The comparison is designed to identify their past, current, and planned efforts to raise the number of international students paying full tuition fees; to attract and retain foreign talents; to establish a domestic acceptance of foreign professionals; and to minimize the potential mismatches between the supply from the education system and the demand from corporations. Certain policies, such as the provision of bonded scholarship for international students, may appear controversial. Accordingly, the fine-tuning of referring policies and drivers is of vital importance.

Keywords: Knowledge-based creative economy, Decentralization in education, Education hub, Higher education policies, Internationalization
Reinterpretation of Food crisis Occurring in 2008: Focused on Theories of Capital Established by Thorstein Bunde Veblen

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Abstract

The purpose of this research study is to reinterpret the causes of food crisis occurring in 2008 from the perspectives of Thorstein Bunde Veblen. The outbreak of food crisis 2008 was caused by extremely complex factors. In this regard, this study meant to shed new light on food crisis that hit hard in 2008, using theories of capital established by Veblen as theoretical resources. The process of this research is summarized as follows. In the first place, this research study reviewed the existing discussions made as to general causes of food crisis 2008. Among the factors criticized as general causes of food crisis were mainly the problems that must be considered on a level of demand and supply, in general. There was, however, the research result that both demand and supply of international grain markets are followed by various variables. Food crisis 2008 resulted from complex factors which were not adequate enough to be raised only from the perspectives of demand and supply. In this context, this research study intended to reinterpret food crisis occurring in 2008 based on theories of capital formulated by Veblen in a bid to complement the limit of this precedent study. This starts from why this researcher has paid attention to Scholar Veblen. First of all, this researcher judged that Veblen has been underestimated as a political and economical scholar, too much, and theories of capital established by Veblen would provide major concepts and viewpoints in the process of analyzing food crisis that was struck in 2008. This has attracted attention of this researcher. Moreover, it is considered that theories of capital by Veblen would overcome the limit of the existing discussions that have misled the fundamental cause of food crisis, and would provide the advantage in understanding the trend of privatizing, commercializing and financing farm crops advocated by transnational corporations. The agrifood field has monopolized capital most dramatically. The monopolizing tendency emerging in food crisis that hit hard in 2008 is almost equivalent to the essence of capital controverted by Veblen long ago, to an astonishing extent. In the viewpoint of Veblen, food crisis occurring in 2008 is the case which shows vividly how capital commercializes and privatizes the nature in capitalistic economy.

Against this backdrop, this researcher divided the causes of food crisis 2008 into three aspects in an attempt to analyze them. According to Veblen, goods is the communalized product. Given this fact, the fundamental and primary cause of food crisis was due to privatized farm crops or goods as the public products. The second cause of it was because of commercialized intangible assets. Unlike any other economists, Thorstein Bunde Veblen emphasizes accumulation of knowledge. But as
knowledge accumulated in communities is subordinate to particular capital and intangible assets representing knowledge begin to be commercialized in capitalistic society, a problem happens. In order to apply this logic into food crisis that struck in 2008, this study presented three patterns of commercialized intangible assets appearing in the crisis situation. They were the WTO system as an asset, the breed as a product, and the tendency of financing farm crops. In the end, this study dealt with the problem with monopoly of transnational corporations that are pursued in mutual links with factors mentioned above, from the viewpoints of Thorstein Bunde Veblen, based on the foregoing discussions. To summarize this analytic process, collectively, a general conclusion is drawn that the main cause of food crisis is owing to the problem with the 'capitalistic' system and as Veblen stated, farm crops must become the communalized product.

**Keywords:** Food crisis, Thorstein Veblen, Privatizing, Commercializing, Financing
Exploring Inquiry-Based Stress Reduction (IBSR) as a Counselling Intervention

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Abstract

Utilising mindfulness-based approaches and techniques within counselling has become increasingly popular with mental health professionals. Research has shown that practicing mindfulness can have positive implications for both clients and therapists. Relatively new to the field of counselling is a meditational, mindfulness-based approach known as Inquiry-Based Stress Reduction (IBSR). This qualitative study explored therapists’ experience of using IBSR both personally and in their clinical practice. Employing Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), six participants who were mental health professionals and had attained certification in IBSR were selected for this study. Seven main themes emerged from the findings including: IBSR’s influence on the therapist; self-care and burn-out; broader perspectives; IBSR’s strengths and therapeutic benefits; challenges and limitations; client populations and characteristics; and the therapeutic alliance.

A range of benefits were identified as a result of utilising IBSR including the potential for immediate and life-changing effects for those experiencing IBSR, as well as supporting therapist wellbeing and protecting against burnout. Participants viewed IBSR as an effective self-care tool which promoted self-awareness, self-compassion, acceptance towards clients, greater cognitive flexibility and metacognitive awareness. The approach was also regarded as having positive implications for the therapeutic alliance. Some challenges and limitations were noted such as the short-term engagement with clients having detrimental financial impacts on therapists; and the ‘turnarounds’ (a way to explore different interpretations of an identified stressful belief) as a possible contraindication. Clients’ openness to IBSR was viewed as a key factor to the effectiveness of the approach.

Keywords: counselling; mindfulness; The Work of Byron Katie; Inquiry-Based Stress Reduction; short-term interventions
Application of Mixed Reality in Education Business

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Abstract

A new wave of Augmented and Mixed Reality products has reached the consumer market. While previous Mixed Reality waves were predominantly reserved to academic world with a peak in scientific publications around 2010, newer generation products promise to revolutionize teaching methods in the education industry. The purpose of this paper is to present a systematic overview of the current applications of Mixed Reality and to evaluate their strength and limitations. The research analyzes expectations of the industry by hardware manufacturers such as Microsoft, HTC, or Oculus and compares them against real life showcases and application research that has been conducted in previous research. The article is organized into three parts. The first part showcases significant applications in the field of education. The advantages of Mixed Reality Education seem to prevail in the field of STEM education, which seems relatively open to the application of new technologies. Representative showcases have been created to demonstrate application in the field of medicinal anatomy as well as of chemistry.

The second part addresses the common problems and challenges faced by all Mixed Reality applications. While many studies show the advantages of Mixed Reality Systems by their special ability to mark, tag or annotate the real world, there are still little solutions for intelligent recognition of real word elements. Many applications are limited to the reading of patterns or bar codes or are used as markers to display content enhancement. Such applications can be found in so called augmented reality books or virtual chemistry experiments. Furthermore, intelligent recognition systems might require more powerful computer systems or enhancement of system resources by means of cloud computing. The third part focuses on the further developments that are necessary to assure the success and wider implementation of the technology in the future. This implies to surpass the of the begin of the product life cycle for the technology and create content with proper curriculum and educational concepts as they have already been developed for various e-learning platforms. These types of learning have been optimized and researched in depth. The results of this research needs to be applied and adapted to the Mixed Reality technology.

While manufacturers announce a brilliant future and deploy a large number of application and businesses for Mixed Reality applications, reality shows that very few platforms and concepts exist, as is the case for other modern education platforms such as e-learning, in the
The construct of emotional wellbeing in the professional development of language teachers: A comparative study between Spain and Denmark

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Abstract

In recent years, the burnout paradigm in the teaching profession, focused on emotional exhaustion and diminishing of professional outcomes, has being replaced by an alternative line of research centred upon teacher wellbeing. Such line addresses the factors required to ensure the satisfaction and wellbeing of teachers. However, there are to date very few studies attempting to investigate the wellbeing of foreign language teachers in particular, in spite of the fact that this condition has proved to be subject-dependent. Furthermore, well-established findings pertaining to the unique nature of the very processes of language teaching and learning justify the need for specific studies. In this paper, we a) approach the concept of emotional wellbeing and b) report on a research study carried out in order to diagnose language teachers’ perceptions of their own wellbeing.

We will begin by providing an epistemological analysis of the constructs of emotional wellbeing and hygge (a condition of wellbeing regarded as a defining characteristic of Danish culture). Current conceptualizations of the very term wellbeing from both a psychological and an educational perspective will be considered. Next, we will pay attention to the particularities of language teaching. Thus, the relationship between language and identity and the role of language and discourse in the construction of the self are aspects worthy of consideration when dealing with both the emotional and cognitive processes involved in language learning and teaching.

Next, we will present the design, progress and outcomes of a research project financed by the Spanish Ministry. As part of the project, interviews, discussion groups and case studies were conducted in order to bring the teachers’ voices centre stage. In this sense, a comparison will be established between the discourses and narratives of both Spanish and Danish teachers, in the light of both educational systems. Likewise, we will compare the manner in which wellbeing is integrated in the teacher education
curricula of both countries.

Keywords: Wellbeing, Language education, Professional development of teachers

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The Use of Computer Based Method to Support Dietary Intervention among Children

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Abstract

This paper presents the findings from a dietary intervention designed specifically to change in dietary knowledge, attitude, intention and unhealthy diet of school children. A total of 201 (treatment group N= 106, control N= 95) children, aged 10 participated in this study. Participants in both the treatment and the control group completed a baseline questionnaire (pre-test) related to dietary knowledge, attitude, intention and unhealthy food intake, and were re-administered (post-test) after three months to assess the change. Respondents in the treatment group received intervention combining the use of computer based method with traditional method (PowerPoint presentation, classroom discussion, hands on group activities techniques) for three consecutive weeks. The score between pre-test and post-test measures showed no significant changes of dietary knowledge and intention in both treatment and control groups. Nonetheless, at post-test, treatment group reported significantly higher intention to avoid unhealthy food and higher negative attitude towards unhealthy food than the control group. Treatment group reported significant decrease in fast food, soda drink, junk food and sweet food. Findings of this study suggest that computer based intervention will therefore may complement other intervention methods, and have the potential to help practitioners tailoring an effective intervention to address dietary problem among children.

Keywords: Computer based intervention, Unhealthy eating, Children, Malaysia
Students’ learning experience: The importance of social presence in online learning toward non-traditional students (NTS)

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Abstract

Interactive classes offered using the internet as a means of delivering course content are a growing phenomenon. The students who enroll in distance education programs find out that they must learn on their own while the instructor is taking on a facilitator role. Based on qualitative in-depth interviews (IDIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs), this study aimed to explore and describe the students’ learning experience through online learning for NTS (non-traditional students) who are identified based on age, employment, family and financial responsibilities associated with it. Meanwhile, five NTS students in this study are Indonesian migrant workers who are studying in Indonesia Open University, Taiwan branch. They are workers and students at the same time who want to get knowledge which will be used for their subsequent career. The findings of this qualitative study argued that there are several challenges and problems for students when they study through online learning. However, there are also some advantages of distance education toward NTS. In addition, this study also found that instructor presence is substantial to establish social presence in online learning in order to create success in distance education.

Keywords: Interactive classes, Learning experience, Online learning, Non-traditional students (NTS), Social presence.
A New Educational Kit for Holography

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Abstract

This paper presents a new kit for holography, explains how it works and indicates the educational benefits for the students. This scientific tool includes all the necessary elements to simply and safely record reflection Denisyuk holograms and also allows a lot of experiences to discover and understand the basics of optics. This kit can be used in any class-room to teach both school and university students and does not require any additional equipment such as an optical table.

Our kit uses low-power laser diodes, non-dangerous for eyes, the ultra-high sensitivity silver halide holographic emulsion “ultimate” and an easy and safe processing, for both students and environment.

Keywords: Holography, Optics, STEM Education
The Concept of Learning Organizations in a Management System Implementation: A Case Study in a Brazilian Petrochemical Plant

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Abstract

Most CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management Systems) do not work as a management system or have limited management capacity after implementation. According to Wireman (1998), another important fact is that approximately 50% of the CMMS implemented are predestined to fail in less than two years of operation. So what can we do about it? The author uses Peter Senge’s concept of learning organizations as a new way to implement and use a CMMS. This paper examines how this methodology was successfully used at the Rio de Janeiro Gas-Chemical Complex to guarantee the full usage of its computerized maintenance management system.

Keywords: Maintenance, Management, Fifth discipline, Corporative education
Investigating The Relationship Between Attachment Styles with marital adjustment based on attribution as a mediator

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to Investigate the Relationship Between Attachment Styles and marital adjustment with mediating attributions. This research method was correlation and structural equation model. Statistical community included in all couples that referred to counseling centers in 2015, in Iran. Samples included in 101 couples that selected by cluster sampling. Data collected by questionnaires that included: Early Close Relationship- Revised, Relational Attribution Measure, Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale. Statistical methods in this research contain descriptive and inferential statistics in the type of structural equations and semi-experimental plans. Data showed that all of the factors effect on marital adjustment independently and directly: Avoidant and Anxious attachment has significant effect on marital adjustment, but in this case Avoidant is more effective attachment. About indirect relationship through mediating factor, findings showed that relationship attributions operate as a mediator between Attachment and marital adjustment. In addition, anxious attachment’s effect on marital adjustment was more depended on attribution variable, but avoidant attachment’s effect was not depended on mediating factor. Totally, research findings showed that avoidant attachment has significant direct effect on marital adjustment, but anxious attachment’s effect was indirect and through mediating factor. Therefore, we can focus on attachment theory in couple therapy and work with maladjusted couples based on it.

Keywords: Attachment dimensions, Marital adjustment, Relational attribution, Structural equation modeling.
Developing a Multidimensional Inventory of Major Satisfaction

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to develop a multidimensional inventory of major satisfaction in Chinese universities. A three-phase study was conducted. First, interviews were conducted with 18 undergraduates to develop indigenous items for assessing major satisfaction. Second, 200 Chinese undergraduates were included to determine the items of the newly-developed instrument and to examine its psychometric properties. Third, the validity and reliability of the measurement were examined in a sample of 796 Chinese students. Results showed that the major satisfaction inventory including 23 items consisted of six dimensions: teacher ability, curriculum & instruction, teaching equipment, management system, major prospect, & learning climate. The measurement was found to possess good validity and reliability. In addition, results showed that students’ graduation choices had a close relationship with major satisfaction. The students with higher major satisfaction were more likely to develop their careers in the areas which were closely related to their majors.

Keywords: Major satisfaction, Inventory, Validity and reliability, Chinese undergraduates
The role of shared leadership and goal commitment on team effectiveness

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Abstract

This research aims to examine the role of shared leadership and goal commitment on team effectiveness in startup business employees. Researcher think that it is urgent to be done since startup business is keeping growing in Indonesia, especially Jakarta as one of economic growth key success. Team effectiveness is important to startup business to achieve their goals while exploring their business model. Then datas were collected through online survey filled by startup businesses employees in Jakarta (N = 60). By the empirical data, it supports the hypothesis of this cross-sectional research, shared leadership and goal commitment predict team effectiveness significantly. Moreover, using stepwise method researcher discovered that shared leadership positively impacts team effectiveness (F(1,58) = 67.49, p = .00, R² = .538) and both shared leadership and goal commitment predict team effectiveness as well (F(2,57) = 42.225, p < .01, R² = .597). This research result would be applicable for startup businesses to improve their team effectiveness by considering shared leadership and goal commitment in their intervention.

Keywords: Goal commitment, Jakarta, Shared leadership, Startup, Team effectiveness
Communication for Development in the University Curriculum

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Abstract

The emergence of a new generation of information and communication technologies (ICT) has prompted widespread international attention to a larger role for communication in development initiatives. Computers, mobile phones (especially smart phones), and the internet have become accessible by many even in developing nations. A major thrust toward recognizing the great potential of ICTs came from the eight major industrial nations (the G8) who, in the year 2000, asserted that information and communication technologies can be one of the most potent forces in shaping the 21st century. The G8 noted that the revolutionary impact of ICTs affects the way people live, learn and work, and the way government interacts with civil society. In 2003 and 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) persuaded many nations and international organizations to undertake ICT projects to help meet the 2015 targets for the Millennium Development Goals. Now the focus is on strategically using these tools to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) drafted by the United Nations in 2015 and targeted for the year 2030. In this paper we explore a strategy for action that involves community learning centres, universities, and the application of communication for development.

Keywords: ICTD, Community learning centres, Communication for development, Engaged learning
Promoting Vocabulary Development Through Dance Education

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Abstract

This study focuses on using dance education as an approach to promote vocabulary development among English as a foreign language (EFL) learners in Laos. The participants were 25 Laotian students aged between 11 to 12 years old, one choreographer (English teacher) and three English teachers. Modeling was provided by the teacher in conducting the dance class and students were subsequently asked to conduct their own dance sessions. Observations and discussions were employed to collect data while a semi-structured interview was also conducted to obtain feedback (Jackson, 2011 & Creswell, 2014). Bachman and Palmer’s (1996) theory of language competence-vocabulary was used as analysis framework. Findings indicate that the EFL learners were able to comprehend and use the ‘dancing vocabulary’ without any reference to the dictionary in their subsequent dance activities after they had been exposed to the teacher’s modeling sessions. Their confidence is also seen in their ability to conduct a fresh dancing class for others using the same vocabulary. The outcome of this study supports Chacon’s (2005) view that learning vocabulary through dancing is fun and effective. Hence, it should be incorporated into language programs.

Keywords: Vocabulary development, L2, Dance education, Upper level
Comparative study of elementary education in prominent countries.

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Abstract

In the present scientific age, various countries of the world are interdependent on each other. The educational system of one country influence the education of the other countries. The entire world has become interwoven. The development of comparative education is marked by the following reasons. Firstly, it began with the traveler’s tales based on simple curiosity to know other people and what they did. Secondly, it was prompted by the desire to learn useful lesson from foreign practices and borrow ideas for use at home. Thirdly, it saw international co-operation for the cause of world harmony and mutual improvement among nations. Fourthly, it was a search for the forces and factors shaped national education system. Fifthly, it may defined as the stage of social science explanation that is the relationship between education and society.

Keywords: Comparative study, Elementary education, Prominent countries.
Study habits and Academic Achievements of Students and their Mothers’ Working Status

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Abstract

A learner’s habits of study differ depending on a number of factors among which may be the influence of the home, especially the mother. An individual’s academic achievement also depends on the study habits of the individual. Some people think that a good mother is one who gives up her employment to stay at home with her children. However, there is no scientific evidence that says children are harmed when their mothers work. In fact, the working women even while holding very responsible job continue to perform their duties and obligations at home thereby influencing their children's study habit and academic achievement. The present study belongs to the category of ‘Descriptive Research’ with features of inter-group comparison. The samples of the study consist of 948 high school students with 482 males and 466 females. Samples are selected using stratified cluster random sampling technique. The present study aims to find out the level of study habits and academic achievements of students studying in high schools of Mizoram, which is one of the North Eastern states in India. The present research also aims to find out if there are any significant difference in the study habits and academic achievements of students with reference to their mother's working status. It also aims to find out if there are any significant differences in the study habits and academic achievements of students whose mothers are working, with reference to their gender and locale. It also aims to find out if there are any significant differences in the study habits and academic achievements of students whose mothers are not working, with reference to their gender and locale. It also aims to find out if there are any significant correlation between study habits of students and their academic achievement. Findings of the present study shows that a large percentage of students have average study habits and academic achievements. The present study also shows that students with working mothers have better academic achievement than students whose mothers are not working. Among students whose mothers are working, it was found that urban students have better academic achievement than rural students. Among students whose mothers are not working, it was found that urban students have better academic achievement as compared to the rural students. With respect to academic achievement and study habit, it was found that there was significant positive correlation at .01 level
between these two variables. It is hoped that the present study will make a significant contribution in improving the academic achievements of students especially those residing in rural areas. Once the important role mothers play in the education of their children is understood, schools can organize parent-teacher contact programme so as to further improve the study habits and academic achievements of the students.

**Keywords:** Study habit, Academic achievement, High school students, Working and non-working mothers, Mizoram

**Quality Assessment at the Primary School Level in Mizoram on the Basis of Learning Outcome**

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**Abstract**

Education with quality variation is the deprivation of the children’s right to equality of opportunity in matter of employment since the Indian Constitution Article 16 provides the right to ‘equality of opportunity in matter of public employment’ to all its citizens. Thus, the need for provision of equal conditions for success to all children irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex has become an imperative demand of the nation. The present study is an attempt to find out the learning outcomes or competency level of primary school children in Mizoram, one of the youngest states of India located at the remotest corner of eastern region bordering with Myanmar. It is a descriptive survey research on the basis of quantitative data. The study has been focussed on the four objectives: (i) to assess the performance and level of achievement; (ii) to compare the performance on the basis of management i.e. Govt and Private schools; (iii) to compare the performance on the basis of location i.e. rural and urban; (iv) to compare the performance on the basis of gender i.e. boys and girls. Four working hypotheses corresponding to these four objectives have also been formulated in the form of null hypothesis. Descriptive survey method of research has been adopted as the investigator had to describe the status of primary schools in Mizoram with regard to achievement in learning outcomes by class IV children. The population comprised of all class IV children of primary schools in Mizoram who had recently passed class III from such schools. Proportionately stratified purposive random sampling technique has been followed to draw the sample. Thus, the actual sample size came out to be 808. The required data were collected by using the tools constructed by the investigator. Performances are analyzed with the help of measures of variability such as mean and standard deviation. ‘t’ calculated value has also been used to find out whether the differences between the performances of children are significant at 0.1 and 0.5 levels or not. Performances are also analyzed in terms of levels of achievement, that is, the ranges of percentage of marks obtained by the students, to know if the students have achieved mastery level of learning which refers to achievement of 80 per cent and
above marks in an MLL based achievement test.

Major findings of the study are (i) the mean score of children in the test fell below 50% of the total mark which was far from satisfactory; (ii) Only 11.76% of children achieved mastery level of learning in Environmental Studies whereas no child (0%) could achieve this level in Mathematics; (iii) In EVS, the largest group of children (35.90%) derived a scoring which fell within the mark range of 45%-59%. (iv) In Mathematics, the biggest cluster of children (48%) was found within the mark range of 30%-44% which means one-fourth of the children failed to achieve even 30% of the total marks; (v) In EVS, the level of achievement of children was lowest in the area of geography and map reading; (vi) In Mathematics, geometry, fraction and reading calendar emerged as hard spot of learning for the children. (vii) Children from government primary schools were found significantly better than children of private primary schools in Environmental Studies; (viii) In Mathematics, children of private primary schools were significantly better than children of government primary schools; (ix) Girls were significantly better than boys in Mathematics (x) But no such significant difference was found between boys and girls in EVS. To improve the performance of the children, the following recommendations are given: (i) mastery learning approach must be emphasised especially in those private schools and learning through rote-memorization should be discarded as far as practicable; (ii) Competency-based activity-centred or learning outcome approach should be emphasised and followed as a teaching and learning approach right from the elementary level; (iii) Teachers are required to be trained and made acquainted with Mastery based learning approach; (iv) Practical mathematics should be introduced so that every child can enjoy the subject.

**Keywords:** Learning outcomes, Competency, Quality education.
Problems Faced by Teachers of Technical Courses in Mizoram: An Analytical Study

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Abstract

Technical education lends dynamism to society. It changes things for better life and opens new frontiers of knowledge. It helps us in facing new challenges, overcoming difficulties and increases human knowledge. For socio-economic development of the country, the present need is to produce technically skilled manpower in adequate number according to the needs, so as to place the nation on the road to growth, equity and modernization. Development of skillful human resources takes place by two different streams of education, technical education and non technical education i.e. general education. General education generates human capital whereas technical education generates skilled human capital. Technical education is the academic and vocational preparation of students for jobs involving applied science and modern technology. Mizoram, one of the states of India, is very high in literacy and is growing progressively in general education, but far behind other states of India with respect to technical education. The present study was an attempt to find out the problems faced by teachers teaching the technical courses. There were 89 permanent teachers with 52 contractual/guest faculties. Out of a population of 89 permanent teachers, 50 teachers were selected as sample. Questionnaire prepared for the teachers was used to find out their problems. The study found that the main problems faced by the teachers were insufficient number of permanent/regular teachers, inadequate provision of room for each faculty and Head of Department, lack of opportunity for research and training, non functional equipments, non maintenance and outdated equipments and limited fund. Certain measures for solving their problems are given at the end.

Key Words: Technical education, Technical institutions, Teachers, Problems,
The Effect of Basic Vipassana Practice on Mindfulness Level

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Abstract

This research was aimed at studying the effect of one-week basic vipassana practice on mindfulness level of attendances. Samples included 5 males and 42 females, who voluntarily registered to attend a one-week program on basic vipassana practice in Phitsanulok province under the supervision of Vipassana Chiangmai Foundation Center. The samples were asked to self-rate their mindfulness levels before and after having basic vipassana practice, using the 24-item, short form of the 5-facet mindfulness questionnaire (FFMQ – SF, Bohlmeijer, et al., 2011, Baer, et al., 2006). Differences between the 2 sets of mindfulness scores, collected before and after the basic vipassana practice, were analyzed. Results indicated that the 7-day basic vipassana practice significantly induced mindfulness as a whole and particularly on its 3 out of 5 facets: observing, acting with awareness and nonreactivity to inner experience. Mindfulness level, however, was decreased on the facet of nonjudging of inner experience and no difference on the facet of describing. Although the results as a whole supported the effect of basic vipassana practices on inducing mindfulness level, one part indicated opposite effect of the practice on the nonjudging from inner experience facet. Since this experimental research has its limitation on studying a small number of various types of people who volunteered to attend the vipassana practice, repeating study should be conducted with more participants under the control of demographic characteristics. Future studies should also clarify the objective of the basic vipassana practice if it overcomes the nonjudge of inner experience level of mindfulness but instead turn to judge with more understanding the reality and having equanimity.

Keywords: Basic vipassana practice, Mindfulness, 5-Facet mindfulness questionnaire
Higher Education in India and Thailand: A Comparative Study of Some Aspects

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Abstract

The present world is a globalized world where every country is developing itself by learning from other countries. Whatever growth and development are achieved by a country in higher education are also the result of learning and replicating the good practices of other countries. The same applies to India and Thailand. The present paper is an attempt to highlight the higher education system in two Asian countries of India and Thailand and to compare some aspects of higher education in the two countries. Thus, objectives of the study are to highlight and compare types of higher education institutions in India and Thailand, gross enrolment ratio (GER) at tertiary level, gross graduation ratio at tertiary level and positions of India and Thailand in Asian University Ranking and Ranking of World Universities. The study adopts a descriptive method of study. Data about higher education in the two countries were collected from secondary sources mainly from various internet sources. Data are presented in a tabular form for clarity, analysis and interpretation. The study found that: (i) There is no much difference in the broad classification of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India and Thailand, (ii) India has more universities in terms of number as well as student population at tertiary level but Thailand has more universities in terms of university-population ratio, (iii) Gross Enrolment Ratios (GERs) in tertiary education for 5 consecutive years from 2011 to 2015 are higher and better in Thailand than in India (iv) Gross Graduation Ratio in tertiary education is higher and better in India than that in Thailand. In both the countries, female’s Gross Graduation Ratios (GGRs) are higher than that of male’s GGRs, (v) The highest rank acquired by India in the 2017 Asian University Ranking is 50th followed by 69th and 71st ranks while Thailand captures 40th rank followed by 51st and 62nd ranks, (vi) The ranks captured by top 5 universities of Thailand in the "Webometrics Ranking of World Universities - January 2017 are higher and better than that of India, (vii) Parameter-wise, universities of Thailand are much better than their
counterparts in India on the parameters of Presence and Impact whereas Indian universities are much better than that of Thailand on the parameters of Openness and Excellence and (viii) In Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016-2017 and in QS World University Rankings 2016-2017, Indian universities fare better than universities in Thailand.

**Keywords:** Higher education institutions, India, Thailand, Universities, Ranking.

**Construction of A Managerial Leadership Index in The Banking Sector of A City Of Colombia**

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**Abstract**

Leadership itself it’s a subject that from the past century has been bewildering with direction and Management. Nowadays managers, besides their technical role, should appropriate leadership roles considering the complexity that all different organizations are dealing presently. This past mentioned complexity is managed by human beings and if they are poorly guided or unsatisfied with their superiors, their performance would be deficient. The target of this investigation is to build a directive leadership index that measures the intensity of the leadership in the management of the banking system in city Neiva (Colombia). The mentioned index will measure conducts and specific attributes in order that a group of people, in this case the followers or working teams, allow themselves to be voluntarily guided by their leader; which at the same time will be done through a multivariate statistical processing of data approach implementing a poll with Likert scale type of questions. The respective index was assembled by three dimensions: Personality traits, Interpersonal relationships and the followers perception. The results showed that by applying the technical methodology it allows to evaluate in a sensitive way each of the different dimensions that assess the concept of leadership and jointly allows to evaluate leadership in a global manner.

**Keywords:** Leadership, Direction, Index, Followers, Factorial.
Voters’ Behavior in Jakarta Governor Election period 2017-2022

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Abstract

Jakarta Governor Election period 2017-2022 is the most interesting one in the history of Indonesian election. Some observers perceive that Anies Baswedan-Sandiaga Uno’s victory is the victory of the Radical Muslim group over the Non-Muslim group which is supported by the Liberal Muslim. This article would answer the question whether ethnicities and religions are the vote determining factor of voters in Jakarta Governor Election period 2017-2022. To analyze the voters’ behavior and to explain considerations used as the reason by the voters in casting their votes, it is known that there are three types of approaches, namely the Columbia School which uses the sociological approach, the Michigan School which is known for its psychological approach, and the Virginia School which is known for its rational approach. This research is an explorative study with the qualitative approach by using the secondary data provided by Lembaga Survei Indonesia (LSI), Indikator Politik Indonesia, and other survey institutions, which aims to identify the voters’ behavior of Jakarta Governor Election period 2017-2022. The result of the research showed that ethnicities and religions are not the only factor that determined the voters’ behavior of Jakarta Governor Election period 2017-2022. Generally, the factors of one’s linkage to political parties and one’s orientation to issues and candidates also determine their votes. For instance, the image of the pair Anies Baswedan-Sandiaga Uno as friendly/polite and good-looking/handsome candidates has also become the reason for the voters to cast their votes for the pair. Besides that, the role of mass media, including social media, is very important in establishing the image of the candidates and the rising political issues.
Using Co-creation Techniques to Develop Novel Students’ Services

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Abstract

Higher Education Institutions are operating in a more and more competitive environment. In the case of Southeast Asia for instance, the creation of the Asian Economic Community (AEC as part of the ASEAN), is allowing AEC members and International universities to open campuses in any of the 10 founding countries without having to have a local university partner. Furthermore, the number of entry students is currently declining due to pyramid age gap in most Asian countries. Consequently, universities are operating in a much more competitive environment and in order to compete, or even just to survive, they need to provide more than just excellent education. The services that are provided to students must also meet students and parents high demanding and high quality expectations. University service providers are in general not fully equipped with the tools and mindset to develop novel services that will fully meet students’ expectations. This research looked at how using a co-creation approaches and tools, involving graduate students and university service providers, could help developing novel services. An action research approach was used to test this approach and shown positive outcomes in helping building stronger understanding between university service providers and students, but also by helping building empathy between them leading to the co-creation of novel university students’ services ideas. This study was conducted in a private Thai university but the researchers believe it could be similarly applied in any other university context (private or public and in any other country).
Abstract

The paper draws on the extant literature and trend data derived primarily from the United States’ (U.S.) National Science Foundation (National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics) and Department of Education (National Center for Education Statistics) to examine trends in the shares of science and engineering (S&E) baccalaureate degrees awarded to women. Because of an aging, predominantly male S&E workforce in the U.S., increasing women’s participation in S&E has become a national priority. Over the past two decades, women have earned an increasing proportion of all bachelor’s degrees; today, they earn nearly 6 in 10 of total bachelor’s degrees. Although women earn approximately half of all S&E bachelor’s, their representation varies considerably across fields. Specifically, women remain underrepresented in quantitative fields (e.g., economics, engineering, physics and computer science) and overrepresented or at parity in others (e.g., psychology, biological science and most social sciences. Similarly, women’s representation varies within S&E subfields. This paper explores some of the underlying reasons for the differential representation of women in S&E fields, and discusses the implications of these findings as related to policies and programs focusing on increasing the participation of women in the S&E workforce in the U.S.

Keywords: Female study, Quantitative fields, Science and engineering