

STUDIES

SMEs Managers – A Need for Competence

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Abstract: The issue of managerial competencies is important due to the fact that it is the management staff who are responsible for developing a corporate strategy, especially as far as SMEs are concerned. A process of competence development in SMEs is worth being investigated as it proceeds differently than in big organizations, the experience of which is used in the presented research. SMEs are the driving force of economy in well developed countries. Their competitiveness is largely determined by their managers' competencies. They are inextricably linked with the process of education. Education systems and school curricula equip young people with knowledge and skills that are the basis for the later development of professional competencies and the ability to learn throughout one's life. They are complemented by the process of lifelong learning, various forms of non-formal education and self-education. On the other hand, knowledge of competencies necessary for a given position (in this case managerial) is a source of knowledge for the development of an educational process fulfilling the needs of the labour market. The presented study covers the findings of a test survey, purpose of which was to identify the importance of key managerial competencies, competencies needed by managers in SMEs, and to define a set of competencies that managers wish to develop.

Key words: manager, competence, managerial competencies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), educational model.

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ARTICLES

The Society of the 21st Century – A Need for Information in Communication

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Abstract: The author in this article points to the need for information as a fundamental human need in the information society. The realization of this need is a part of the process of communication which is a kind of social phenomenon. The author seeks to entice the reader to satisfy the information needs related to the problem. He notes that satisfying the information needs and the provision of specific information is an ongoing continuing process of education.

Key words: need for information, communication, society, education.

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Some Sociological, Medical and Legislative Views on Video Game Addiction (A Slovenian Case Study)

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Abstract: Millions of people worldwide play video games; also in Slovenian post-modern society. Most of them do it for enjoyment, yet a small number of individuals show traits associated with addictive behaviour when interacting with their games. The authors in the article point out that, compared to drug abuse, there exist some more approachable life-related activities that can lead to addiction. They stimulate the excretion of endorphins and lead to the transformation of consciousness. Addiction to video games is an ostensible attempt to satisfy the immanent human need for meaning. The economy of the Slovenian young consumer society inspires it and is based on “learning” of these alienated needs. The modern hyperpragmatic society makes it possible for young people to have a fragmented identity and places them under the pressure of constant choice of (formally open opportunities).

The purpose of this paper is to familiarize the reader with possible causes, clinical signs and methods of treatment of this disorder in Slovenian post-modern society, and explain the reasons why currently no medical textbook in the world contains any information regarding video game addiction. We intend, further, to demonstrate that gaming has become a type of “sport” in certain countries and demonstrate how potentially devastating even this type of addiction can be. The authors present the results of a research, which was undertaken on a sample of 350 individuals, to determine the appearance of indicators of behavioural addiction to video games and their connection with some family factors. They determine that through addiction to video games, post-modern societies have developed an addictive identity.

Key words: addiction, video games, risk-reward, parenting, peers, death, leagues, help centers, twelve-step programs.

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Teachers' Personality in the Process of Education

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Abstract: There is something in everyone that does not change. The personality of a teacher or an educator stays in the centre of educational work. The personal contact and dialogic disposition of a teacher helps to form the personal potential of a human being to overcome the difficulties and contribute to the optimal functioning in a social environment. The process of learning and the growth of personality belong to a category of interpersonal relationships. A very strong emphasis is placed on the so called "methods of dialogue", which can not only reduce destructive influences, but also teaches us how to accept criticism in a non-offensive way. Everything should take place in an open climate without judgement.

Key words: educational system, personality and personal contact, formative process, dialogue.

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Formative (Classroom) Assessment Techniques

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Abstract: The author presents formative (classroom) assessment techniques with the purpose of improving the teaching process and the learner's development. At the same time, the paper emphasizes the importance of feedback in the teaching process.

Key words: formative assessment, formative (classroom) assessment techniques, feedback, learner-centred teaching.

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Supporting Students in Choosing a Field of Further Education as an Element of Pedagogical and Psychological Activities in Secondary Education in Poland

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Abstract: For an adolescent, as well as for the environment and society, a decision to choose the correct field of education is vitally important. Nowadays, new choices of education, training and retraining have to be made as a result of the fast pace of life, constant changes in the labour market, the progress of knowledge and technology, cultural and social change. Therefore, it is necessary to ask a question how to prepare young people for the future. There is a need for people that think and act creatively, and are able to adapt to the continuous and unexpected changes.

The paper aims to present the tasks, objectives, rules and methods of career counselling as a system of multi-stage pedagogical and psychological activities that accompany an individual during his/her career and that help him/her to make education-related choices. Moreover, the paper presents the main tasks and role of a career counsellor, as well as examples of good practice in the area of career counselling in Poland.

Key words: choice of a field in education, career counselling, career orientation, career counsellor.

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Medical Education in the Field of Communication as a Value and a Means of Health Quality Improvement

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*Vita brevis, ars longa, accasio valucris, experientia periculosa, idicium, difficile.
Nec vero satis est, medicum suum fecisse officium, nisi suum quoque aegrotus,
sum astantes faciant, sintque: externarite comparata.*

*Life is short, art is long, opportunity is fleeting, experience is dangerous,
judgement is hard. It is not enough if the doctor does his job, when it is
necessary, but the patients have to contribute their part as well and so do other
life circumstances. (first Hipocrates Aforism)*

Abstract: The article discusses the issues of communication between a doctor and a patient as one of the main approaches within the patients' medical treatment. This approach, which includes the field of communication in medicine as a value, more and more appears as obligatory not only in the field of profession itself, but also in the field of the patients' needs. Communication covers a huge part of our social as well as intimate lives. Our social functioning is based on communication. The transfer and preserving of values is based on communication. Especially in the field of medicine, the function of communication appears to be one of the key elements to allow a better and complete treatment of the patient. The article discusses studies which have shown that communication skills have to be developed, it is advisable to introduce them into the educational programmes for med students and medical staff. Researches have shown that students, who were taught the field of communication skills, later as doctors or medical staff obtained a lot more information about patients than those who were not given such education.

Key words: communication, doctor, patient, education, values.

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