BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS

"DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES IN A CHANGING SOCIETY: INSIGHTS FROM RESEARCH WITH ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH"

2-3 DECEMBER 2016
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Tirana
Tirana, Albania

Universiteti i
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"DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES IN A CHANGING SOCIETY: INSIGHTS FROM RESEARCH WITH ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH"

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INTRODUCTION

The evolution of knowledge, skills and experiences that are needed for the development of self is a lifelong process. The period of adolescence and young adulthood are particularly important for the exploration and development of self. According to the ecological perspective which has become a dominant paradigm in the field of developmental psychology, the self-development process during adolescence and adulthood do not exist in social vacuum.

Over the past decades, the Albanian society has faced considerable sensitive challenges affecting all its aspects. Significant societal changes on macro and micro levels of analysis have an inevitable impact on the paths the individual development takes. The diverse and rapid social, cultural, technological, economic and demographic changes of recent years pose new challenges – and offer new possibilities – for adolescents and young adults.

Adolescence and young adulthood are stages in life characterized by intense changes. Hence, how does the nature of adolescence and young adulthood itself change? When social contexts become radically different, does it lead to a fundamental transformation of social and psychological developmental processes in adolescents and young adults? The individuals undergoing these societal changes represent a special focus for researchers who offer empirical evidence to the attention of professional and academic development.

This book of abstracts is a collection of all the presentations of the International Conference "Developmental Challenges In A Changing Society: Insights From Research With Adolescents And Youth" held at Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, on December 2-3, 2016. This conference is organized by the Department of Psychology and Pedagogy, Faculty of Social Science, University of Tirana in collaboration with University of Pristina, Kosovo; State University of Tetovo, Macedonia and AAB College, Pristina, Kosovo.

In this book of abstracts important issues to advance knowledge and expertise on developmental challenges in adolescents and young adults are presented. Moreover, recent results of empirical studies on how social changes affect developmental issues during adolescence and young adulthood in the context of proximal ecological social domains of parents, peers and partners are elaborated in this book.

The empirical studies included in this book have fulfilled the criteria set by the scientific board of the conference. Each author is accountable for the theoretic content and the methodology of his/her presentation. This academic event represents publications of many distinguished foreign and Albanian researchers who offer a valuable contribution towards the development of social sciences in Albania. In addition, many new researchers offered a precious contribution. We would like to express our gratitude for their participation, commitment and research integrity shown in this conference. Each of the studies that are presented in this book of abstracts has individual theoretical and methodological merits. Thus, we use this opportunity to give our deepest appreciation to all participants.

Lastly, we express our deepest gratitude for the leading authorities of the University of Tirana for the significant contribution for making the organization of this conference possible.

GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN FAMILY AND MARRIAGE ATTITUDES IN ALBANIA

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Abstract

There is evidence that indicate the rise of average age for first marriage, cohabitation and premarital sex in the last decades in Albania. These trends call attention to changes in the institution of family and marriage related to the societal changes. Although there is a general agreement about generational differences in family and marital attitudes, the lack of research based evidence makes it difficult to empirically evaluate the extent of such differences in Albania

The main purpose of this study was to determine if there are real differences in some selected family and marriage attitudes (the necessity of marriage, sexual freedom, living together without being married, homosexual couples, role of man and women in occupation and family, the importance of having children, parents and children's responsibility to each other, divorce and abortion) between the young, middle and old generation in Albania. Using data from the 2008 European Value Survey collected through a self administrated questionnaire, this study compares the family and marriage attitudes among 1534 respondents belonging to different generations. Preliminary descriptive analyses were conducted to examine variation within and between independent variables as well as within the dependent variables. Mixed methods ANOVAs were used to compare the differences between generations in family and marriage attitudes.

Findings indicate that there are significant differences in family and marriage attitudes among different generations. In general, in the most of the family and marriage attitudes, the young generation is less traditional than older generations, although there were greater differences between the young and old generation (65+).

Keywords: *family attitudes; marriage attitudes; generational differences.*

VALUES, BELIEFS, AND ATTITUDES OF TWO GENERATIONS TOWARDS THEIR PARENTS AND FAMILY: A CHANGING WORLD

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Abstract

The present research attempts to explore the values system, the beliefs and attitudes of the adolescents and an older generation grown up in different social environment and to identify the sources of differences accordingly. Since the research to verify these values, beliefs and perceptions is scarce the author is based on the data available from the World Values Survey (WVS).

The research type is descriptive and in this sense it explores the frequencies and the cross tabulations available by the database of WVS.

The research made comparisons of different values, beliefs and attitudes among age subgroups and found clear differences between these generations. These differences seem to be a part of the identity of these generations.

The research findings show that the values system, the beliefs and attitudes of both age subgroups related to family, parents and marriage differ substantially. Apart from the personal experiences of those subjects, these differences are explained with the influence of the changed social environment within which these generations are grown up. The research hypothesizes that these differences would bring more intergeneration conflicts, less new marriages, lower birth rates, growth of divorce rates, growth of the number of nuclear families, more egoistic and individualistic children, more children without appropriate parental support, an aged population.

Keywords: *values, beliefs, attitudes, family, marriage, parents*

REVIEW OF SCHOOL AS COMMUNITY CENTER INITIATIVE – PERCEPTIONS OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS

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Abstract

In 2013, MoE launched the initiative School as Community Center (SCC). The aim of this initiative is to transform the school into a place where the schoo-family-community partnership is built and where there is a cooperation for the development of each student's potential. From the launching of initiative to date, the initiative has expanded to more than 180 schools – each school being self-nominationg as SCC and developing its own profile.

The aim of this study was to explore the trends in which SCC initiative is developing from the perspective of students, teachers and parents and formulate recommendations for improving further this initiative. To address this aim a combination of primary and secondary data have been used. Qualitative research methods (focus groups and semi-structured interviews) have been used to collect primary data, in-depth information on the current status of implementation of SCC in Albania. Secondary data have been used to better understand the way how SCC's initiative has been implemented so far, as well as to identify international best practices and lessons learnt in order to provide recommendations for moving forward with this initiative.

In an effort to obtain diversity of population benefiting from SCC initiative, data were collected in nine regions of the country: Tropoja, Shkodra, Dibra, Vlora, Permeti, Tirane, Durres, Elbasan, Korca. Out of the sample frame of all SCC schools in nine regions a stratified random selection of schools has taken place. In total 33 schools have been the sample of this study. 95 teachers, 90 students and 52 parents have participated in focus groups. Key informant interviews were realized with 13 SCC coordinators/directors, 9 key students and 11 policy makers at local and national levels.

Findings suggested that overall, SCC initiative was positively welcomed

from the schools. Even though participants understanding of SCC initiative was sound in theoritical terms, it tended to be very limited and simplicist in its appliaction. There were a lot of positive aspects, as well as lots of challenges that needs to be addresed.

SPATIAL-LOGICAL AND MATHEMATICAL INTELLIGENCE IN 15-17 YEARS OLD ADOLESCENTS AND GENDER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM

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Abstract

One of the most discussed issues of the cognitive subject of psychology is intelligence. Enormous studies over it show that people with a well-developed spatial intelligence have good enough orientation capacities (Gardner, 2010; Lazzari, 2007; Brualdi, 1996). Other authors have come to the conclusion of a positive correlation between high spatial intelligence and mathematical achievements (Moscucci & Piccione, 2002; Diezmann & Watters, 2000). Other researchers have observed gender differences between girls and boys in spatial abilities and concluded that boys have an advantage on these skills (Voyer, Voyer dhe Bryden, 1995).

The main aim of this study is to observe if the spatial capacities are related with the logical mathematical ones and to evaluate if there is a gender difference in possessing these abilities in both sexes. The first expectation is that the spatial intelligence of the adolescents is positively correlated with the logical mathematical intelligence and secondly that adolescent boys have higher level of spatial intelligence than adolescent girls. Different researchers have concluded that spatial intelligence is strongly correlated with future professional success (Gardner, 2010; Diezman & Watters, 2000).

The intentional sample of the study is composed of 152 high school students, that study in 4 randomly selected high schools of the capital, 41 boys (29% of the sample) and 102 girls (71% of the sample), 15 - 17 year old, 10th and 11th grades, with average assessment in math subject.

The used instruments were the Spatial Intelligence Test with 20 visual-spatial problems to solve (Bultans, 2008, http://alliqtests.com/tests/take_test); Mathematics Ability Test composed of 10 questions that assess the mathematics logical abilities (Bultans, 2008, http://alliqtests.com/tests/take_test); and 2 checklists to assess the personal

perception of the subjects over their personal intelligent capacities (Smith, 2005).

The gathered data supported both hypotheses. The Pearson correlation of the main two variables (spatial and mathematics intelligence) is $r = 0.618394$. Even the analyzed statistical measurements about the second expectation supported its confirmation (girls: $r = 0.538883$ and boys $r = 0.771643$).

PARENTS' DIVORCE AND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON TEENAGERS

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Abstract

Divorce is already a prevalent phenomenon which has attracted the attention of different researchers, psychologists and social employees (Picard and Blain, 1994). The number of divorces in Albania has had a great growth, especially after the 90-s, which is an indicator of the emancipation of the Albanian women. The Albanian women at the socialist times because of their children and low economical level, accepted to keep one husband who was not as decent, and consequently suffer psychologically or even being badly treated. Anyway, the number of divorces in the recently has alarmed not only the Albanian society, but also the international statistics agencies. Children are the ones to suffer mostly from the separation of the parents and they are the ones to go through sadness, fear, anger and as a result be closed within themselves. They often feel guilty and powerless toward their parents' separation. Such children show clear problems in school and society, reflected as such in behavior, communication, cooperation with their peers. The absence of a parent model brings to children a state of psychological confusion, which consequently leads to lack of communication skills later. Their psychic trauma as a rule goes along in the proportion with the parents' conflict level during the process of divorce.

In this study, it has been chosen to work with the way how to manage and adapt teenagers with the process of their parents' divorce process, as well as the effect that divorce process leaves teenagers with and the way how these teenagers adapt with the difficulties that this process shows. The research was elected to be qualitative as we do with exploring areas of experience (experience of teenagers) through instruments such as interviews.

It uses semi-structured interviews is because they provided specific information which can be compared with those of other studies.

Anyhow, the analysis theme is focused on the way how a number of factors influence the adaptability of the teenagers with the divorce process.

RISK FACTORS FOR ADOLESCENTS SELF-HARM

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Abstract

Objective of this study is to present the prevalence of deliberate self-harm behavior in adolescent that have problems of conduct and are refered from teachers to the school psychologycal service. To explore the associated psychological and social factors of occasional and repetitive deliberate self-harming behavior in adolescents.

Method. Cross sectional survey using anonymous self report questionnaire are used in setting schools of Elbasan and Tirana. Participants 73 pupils refered from teachers to the school psychological service, from age 15 and 17 years was part of this study.

Results Participants (3.8%) reported an act of deliberate self harm in the previous year that met study criteria. Only 1.2% of episodes had resulted in presentation to hospital. Deliberate self harm was more common in females than it was in males. In females the factors included in a multivariate logistic regression for deliberate self harm were recent self harm by family members, depression, anxiety, impulsivity, and low self esteem. In males the factors were suicidal behaviour in friends, drug use and low self esteem.

Conclusions Deliberate self harm is common in adolescents, especially females. School based mental health initiatives are needed. These could include approaches aimed at educating school pupils about mental health problems and screening for those at risk.

Keywords: *adolescents, self-harm, risk factor, school*

THE DYNAMIC OF TEACHING AND LEARNING MOTIVATION FROM STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

The dynamic of teaching and learning methodology extends beyond the traditional methodology, 'lecturing' and ' content related knowledge', as many instructors now would prefer to create a "community of active learners", only through collaborative approach and interactive learning tools to raise students attention and motivation on the lectures in general.

While there is an extensive research on teaching effectiveness and satisfaction among high school students in other countries, such literature is almost lacking in Albania.

The study draws on a quantitative inquiry on the effectiveness of teaching methods and participatory learning environment on the motivation of students and their overall excitement with the class lectures. The population consisted of 839   high schools students from 12 regions of Albania. The study adopted the descriptive survey design and all the information was collected through a questionnaire which largely had close-ended questions. The findings of the study revealed that just few students felt they were motivated from their professors with the majority of students 37.5% who admitted they aware just slightly motivated and 34% of them were somehow motivated for the new lecture. Almost 37.7 % of all students believe that their lecture was slightly interesting and existing.

Moreover, regarding the interactive methodology used by the professors such as working groups, seminars and debates almost 40% of the students admitted their professors used slightly such activities and 33.3 % agreed that their professors used interactive methods in just few cases. Interestingly enough was the fact that the majority of students 35.5 % of the total number would like their lectures be taught in more active and participatory methodology.

Keywords: *teaching, learning, motivation, interactive, students*

THE PEER RELATIONS AND ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION AT HIGH SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN SHKODRA (A STUDY OF RELATIONS)

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to describe the peer relations and adolescent depression at high school adolescents in Shkodra. This relationship is seen from an interesting perspective which is focused on the behaviours . The question is : What do adolescents do ?". Generally they are engaged in behaviours such as bullist ,victim or prosocial behaviour . There are environmental influences on such behaviours especially depending on where they grew up.

The sample of this study consists of 180 adolescents , 84 males and 96 females , between 16-17 years old , of the first and second years of two high schools in Shkodër ,Albania .

According to the findings of this study 10% of the adolescents of this sample show bullist behavior , 18 % behave like vicitims and 72 % are engaged in prosocial behavior . The levels of depression indicate that 82 % do not show depressive symptoms , 15 % show mild depressive symptoms and 3 % reflect severe depressive symptoms .

There appears to be a little correlation between peer relations and adolescent depression for this sample .

Keywords: *adolescent, bullism, depression*

NATIONAL COLLECTIVE IDENTITY IN EUROPEAN SOCIETIES IN TRANSITION: SALIENCE AND RELATIONS TO LIFE SATISTACTION FOR YOUTH IN ALBANIA, BULGARIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, KOSOVO AND ROMANIA

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Abstract

We investigate national collective identity and life satisfaction among youth in Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Kosovo, and Romania. All countries are developing emerging nations following the collapse of the communism in late 1980s in Eastern Europe. We adopt the notion of collective identity framework denoting group membership, affective commitment, and closeness to other members of the group as well as behaviors (Ashmore, Deaux, & McLaughlin-Volpe, 2004). Participants were 880 adolescents (M = 15.57 years, SD = 1.34) with Albanian (n = 209), Bulgarian (n = 146), Czech (n = 306), Kosovan (n = 116), and Romanian (n = 103) background who filled in the National Identity Scale investigating five collective identity domains (Dimitrova et al., 2016) and Life Satisfaction Scale (Diener et al., 1985). A multigroup path model showed that national self-categorization, evaluation, importance, attachment, and behavioral involvement were significantly positively related to a single underlying factor we labeled national collective identity. In all groups, youth with a stronger national collective identity reported higher levels of well-being. These results are particularly valuable in providing new knowledge on the construct of national identity from a

collective identity perspective among under investigated samples from unique countries in Europe faced with dynamic societal changes.

THE INFLUENCE OF IDENTITY STYLES ON PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH DURING ADOLESCENCE: DOES IDENTITY COMMITMENT MATTER?

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Abstract

All adolescents are involved in the process of identity development. One of the essential functions of ego during adolescence is to maintain early identifications and explore new alternatives for developing a coherent sense of identity. Based on psychosocial theory (Erikson, 1968) and on identity function model (Adams and Marshall, 1996), identity development is related to psychological health and interpersonal functioning during adolescence. For the purpose of the study was employed cross-sectional design to explore the influence of identity styles on psychological health of Albanian adolescents. Participants were 1042(77% girls; 23% boys) adolescents selected randomly in national level in Albanian high schools and universities. All participants completed self-report of the Revised Identity Style Inventory (ISI-5; Berzonsky, 2013) and Clinical Outcomes in Routine Evaluation Outcome Measure (CORE-OM, Bodinaku, 2014; Evans, 2002). In order to analyze the datawas adopted a regression modeling approach to test associations between identity styles (informational, normative and diffuse avoidant) and adolescents'psychological health (lack of life functioning, psychological symptoms and risk to harm self and others). In addition, was employed process macro (Hayes, 2013) to test the role of commitment as mediator between identity styles and adolescents psychological health. The results confirmed that identity processing styles were significant predictors of adolescents' psychological health. Also identity commitment moderated the influence of identity styles on adolescents' psychological health.

Keywords: *identity development, adolescent health, commitment, Albania*

PATTERNS OF PERCEPTION OF PERSONS IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS IN A CLINICAL AND NONCLINICAL POPULATION IN TIRANA

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Abstract

This introduction focuses at evidencing and describing patterns of perception of close persons and self in a clinical and nonclinical population. The way how parents perceive their children and vice versa are strongly connected with the pattern of relation they develop with each other. Research shows that the type of relation and quality of the relation is a relevant indicator of the child's mental health during growth and adulthood. The findings introduced in this presentation are part of a wider study conducted with a representative sample in Tirana aiming at validating and standardizing a battery of psychometric measures in Albanian.

The study was conducted with a nonclinical sample representative of the population of Tirana (n = 501) and a clinical sample selected at the community mental health centre of Tirana (n=209). Along with the battery of standard questionnaires (SCL-90-R, CORE-OM, BDI-II, CES-D) an open instrument, AIR (Adjective Interview on Relationship) was administrated. In the latter instrument, participants were asked to name spontaneously up to five adjectives describing the relationship for each of the six close persons (friend, father, mother, partner, child, self). The 6375 descriptions were analysed by the CCRT-LU (Core Conflictual Relationship Theme – Leipzig, Ulm) category system designed for AIR data analysis which allows describing the relationship patterns with the persons listed in the questionnaire. CCRT-LU is already translated into Albanian. The categorizations were summarized into the general harmony index and to 13 category clusters allowing to present relationship profiles of the six considered persons. Results of standard methods and AIR were analysed and compared statistically.

The findings showed that the patterns of perception of close persons were

influenced by and reflected the expectations of gender roles, particularly when participants were asked to describe their parents. Differently from the nonclinical population, the clinical one showed statistically significant patterns of no harmonic perceptions of parents towards children and vice versa, of children towards parents.

AVOIDANT PERSONALITY DISORDER IN YOUNG ADULTS: EXAMIMING THE EXPERIENCE OF SHAME AND GUILT

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the emotions of shame and guilt in young adults with Avoidant personality disorder. Avoidant personality disorder (AvPD) is a topic of a growing body of research in young adults. Based on literature, shame and guilt are considered to be central emotions in AvPD. This article highlights the need to address shame and guilt when assessing and treating individuals with AvPD.

This research is based on qualitative research methods. The data were collected through diary, kept by the participants during the research. The data were analyzed in depth on NVIVO 11. Participants were young adults 18-30 years old (N=8) diagnosed with AvPD. The examination is diary based that would increase bottom up examination of psychological processes of shame and guilt based on their memories. The data has been collected both manually and computerized and then analyzed on NVIVO 11. The emotions of shame and guilt were examined through experience-sampling methods.

The results were that young adults with AvPD reported intensive and frequent shame and guilt. These emotions cause hypersensitivity towards criticism with social withdrawing. The data gathered were coherent to other studies of individuals with AvPD.

Keywords: *Avoidant personality disorder, shame, guilt*

THE EFFECT OF SOAP OPERAS IN ADOLESCENTS' BODY IMAGE

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Abstract

This study is focused on the body image of the adolescents and its relationship with effect of soap operas. The focus is on 15-17 year old girls studying in the centre of the city and its suburbs. For this reason, one school was selected from Regional Education Authority (RED) Tirana city and one from RED Tirana region. The objectives of this research were: to understand whether soap operas have an effect on body image of girls 15-17 year old; to compare whether there are differences between girls studying in downtown and suburb schools regarding soap opera effect on their body image; to understand the effect that soap operas can have in girls' body image.

Methodology: Even though the data was collected objectively through the application of two questionnaires in a representative sample randomly selected from two REDs, we consider this a case study as it aims to be explanatory and observational rather than generalizable. One instrument is focused on body image and the other one measures the effect of soap operas.

Results: The effect of soap operas showed to have a high level impact on adolescents. In the cases when soap operas have a high level of effect on girls, their body self-image tends to be lower. The adolescents that are highly affected by soap operas feel shame when they don't feel comfortable in their own body. The location of the school has a significant impact on effect of soap operas and on their body image, the effect being higher in suburban schools.

Keywords: *girl adolescents, body image, soap opera, school location*

MENTAL HEALTH OF ALBANIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

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Abstract

Introduction: International migration historically has been a typical phenomenon for Albanians, as a sequence Albania has the highest migration flow among European countries. Migration studies especially those focusing on health and mental health overlook the family members that are left behind in the country of origin. There is a general agreement in the scientific community that the social and mental health costs of migration have been neglected over its financial benefits. In literature there is evidence of CMH (Common Mental Health Disorders) problems among WLB (Women Left Behind) and more mental health problems and behaviour problems among CHLB (Children Left Behind).

Aims: The study aims to explore mental health problems of WLB and behavioural problems of CHLB in Albania. The actual study is part of a larger comparative study conducted in Albania and Kosovo aiming to assess mental health of women and children left behind by migrant husbands/fathers.

Method: A sample of (N=211) women with migrant husbands and (N=42) women with non migrant husbands/partners participated in this study. All were asked to complete a battery of questionnaires: two self-reports HAMA (Hamilton Anxiety Scale); DAS 21 (Depression, Anxiety and Stress Measure) and a collateral report SDQ (Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire). SDQ provided mothers ratings about their children behaviour.

Results: The data analysis show that WLB reported significant higher level of depression, anxiety and stress level symptoms compared to women within non-migrant husbands. Further data analysis explored the relation between severities of WLB symptoms of anxiety with children reported symptoms. Findings suggest that WLB with higher level of anxiety report

higher level of conduct problems about their children. Findings also explore the impact of protective and risk factors on WLB mental health and CHLB wellbeing.

IMPACT OF CELEBRITIES AMONG TIRANA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN PURCHASING A PRODUCT

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Abstract

Nowadays the celebrities are taken as example to be followed, especially by the young, and this impact is used by various companies to promote their products. The impact of the celebrities is studied in different academic field, and of the psychology fields is consumer behavior. In this study, it has been looked into the impact of the presence of a celebrity in an energy drink advertisement related to the intention of University of Tirana (UT) students in purchasing the energy drink. To the knowledge of the authors this is the first study that deals with the impact of the celebrities in purchasing a product among the UT students.

Generally, the advertisements aim at promoting specific products by emphasizing its characteristics through celebrities or unknown persons. The aim of this study is to explore the impact that celebrities and non-celebrities have in students' intentions in purchasing an energy drink. It was hypothesized that the advertisement that has a celebrity will result in higher intention in purchasing the energy drink, as compared to the same advertisement with a non-celebrity. The conducted study is a quasi-experiment about the energy drink "Golden Eagle" which has several versions of its advertisement with celebrities and non-celebrities.

Firstly, a screening survey was conducted, developed by the authors themselves, in which how much is a celebrity known and liked. In this phase there were 180 students from three faculties of UT: Faculty of Social Sciences (n=60), Faculty of Law (n=60), Faculty of Economy (n=60). Based on this screening only the students who highly liked the celebrity were chosen for the second phase. The final sample of the study participated in the quasi experiment consisted of students (n=60) chosen by the first sample Faculty of Social Sciences (n=20), Faculty of Law (n=20), Faculty of Economy (n=20). These students watched the advertisements of Golden Eagle with celebrity (n=30) and non-celebrity (n=30) for each faculty and filled in a questionnaire that measured the

intention of the consumers to purchase the product based on the advertisement they watched.

The results showed that there is no statistically significant difference between the students' groups' intention to purchase the energy drink, depending on whether there was a celebrity or a non-celebrity in the advertisement. Based on these data, it was more important that the person who is in the advertisement was handsome/ beautiful but not necessarily a celebrity. In the light of these results the related discussions are made and respective recommendations are offered for further studies.

THE PHENOMENON OF BULLYING AMONG ADOLESCENTS (THE CASE OF 9-YEARS SCHOOL "NENE TERESA" DURRËS)

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Abstract

Teenagers begin to face challenges from more diversified affecting the creation of identity. At this stage of development is noted that individuals often involved in situations with aggression level between friends with each other on the school premises that is known as bullying. Bullying is a subcategory of aggressive behavior, which occurs children, especially in the school environment, where children, teenagers spend a long time together.

For this reason our study population was 9-year School "Nene Teresa" in Durres. Sampling of choice in the study were seventh graders, eighth and ninth. Sampling was stratified random and where the 100 questionnaires that were applied, 48 are girls and 52 are boys.

The main instrument of our study is standardized questionnaire and created by Dan Olveus (Dan Olweus). Some of the findings of the study are to identify forms of bullying, where the most common forms of aggression are, physical and psychological. Aggression occurs more among peers. Bullying effects especially to the victims. They feel stressed, scared and ashamed. The most important thing is reporting on adults for bullying situations, because in this way fight bullying. Students report to teacher, parent, and a small percentage to the school psychologist.

These study findings therefore require rotating recommendations, which go directly to the teaching staff as well as psychosocial training mainly him. Also, greater attention and cooperation as well as school violence awareness of youth on adolescents bullying, its identification, reporting and its consequences.

Keywords: *bullying, aggressive behavior, victim, aggressive, teenager*

THE IMPACT OF THE ACADEMIC RESULTS ON TEENAGERS SELF- ESTEEM

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Abstract

Self-evaluation plays an important role in the formation and evaluation of the concept of personal qualities and traits at every one of us. It relates to general acceptance of our self based on low self-esteem or high. Assessment on themselves in adolescence affects the construction and acceptance of positive and negative values that they look to themselves. An important component that plays a crucial role and motivating them in school institution is the process of learning that is based directly on the level results based on their knowledge. The school is a very important institution in the education of the young generation and evaluation of the process of learning by teachers directly related to self-esteem that young people create for themselves. At school it is the daily assessment includes learning achievement and other psychological actions, ethical, educational. This study aims to show the importance of academic outcomes at the level of self-esteem of adolescents (ages 15-18 years). At the end of this article is shown the results received from two questionnaires applied in two high schools in Elbasan that specifies the importance of the academic performance on teenagers self-esteem.

Keywords: *teens self-esteem,*

THE RISKS OF ADOLESCENTS FROM EXCESSIVE USE OF THE SOCIAL NETWORKS

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Abstract

Internet and especially the social networks are used massively nowadays by adolescents occupying a significant part of everyday life and reducing communication and time spent with their families.

The purpose of this study is to explore the perspectives and attitudes of parents towards the use of internet as well as their perceptions of the risks that their children might face during their stay in social networks. Throughout the study were identified the rules and the strategies that parents use for monitoring their children's activity online.

To fulfil the purpose of the study is used qualitative methods of collecting data through semi-structured interviews with adolescents and their parents. The selected sample consists of 20 subjects, 10 parent-child couples.

The findings of this study show that the majority of parents are concerned about the long time children stay online. According to parents, the use of social networks makes adolescents more isolated, have negative impact on their learning results and leads to developmental problems such as insomnia, irritability, lack of concentration, etc. According to parents the most paramount danger their children can face when communicating via social networks is the communication with unknown persons and they have fear that their children fall prey to fraud and harassment.

Parents set rules that determine the use of social networks at home during their stay, which include; appropriate time of day to access the Internet, restrictions on the time spent on the Internet, control over levels of privacy on social networking sites and restrictions on the use of inappropriate websites.

However, the results showed that adolescents do not always adhere to the rules set by their parents.

Keywords: *Parent, adoleshent, social network,rules*

THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AMONG TEENAGERS

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Abstract

This study is focused mostly on the impact of violence among teenagers. The realization of this study is based on the use of quantitative research method by achieving the distribution and completion of the survey of 550 respondents from 13 to 23 years old. The study in detail aims to explore the impact of violence among teenagers as a necessity to understand the effects of the growth.

This implies a comprehensive analysis of social, economical, political and sub-cultural factors. Parental violence against children and teenagers has some effects on them. It is appeared even from the survey data, which indicate that approximately 56% of the respondents stated that this violence had an impact on them. The violence impact on young people is worrying because this influence goes up to propensity to suicide. From the survey data about 2.1 % of the respondents said that the impact causes depression and suicidal tendency.

Keywords: *teenagers, violence, depression, study, parents, family.*

INCENTIVES OF MEASURING TOLERANT VERSUS INTOLERANT RELIGIOUS BEHAVIOURS AMONG YOUTH IN ROMANIA

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Abstract

Our study aimed to describe the role played by religion in the case of Romanian youth. Also, we intended to describe how the transmission of religious knowledge, on the one hand, and living religiosity on the other hand, leads to differences in the manifestation of a tolerant attitude among youth.

Data were collected from 100 youth, studying orthodox or evangelical religion and living in the city of Sibiu, situated in central Transylvania. A questionnaire measuring the tolerant/intolerant attitude of young people towards other confessions was applied, in order to depict those relevant factors that influence tolerant/intolerant attitudes among youth, along with the role played by the family and the school in shaping their behavior.

This study enhances previous existing theoretical concepts of active religious tolerance, emphasising the need for dialogue and deeper assimilation of religious identity in overcoming the fear of relativity or denial.

Our main findings concern the mapping of the main factors in the formation and development of religious tolerance spirit among young people, the openness towards dialogue, the availability for interacting with others, and also the verification of what type of relationship exists between a tolerant attitude in young people and their degree of religiosity.

Keywords: *Tolerance/ intolerance, religiosity, family, religious education, Romania*

THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS ON POLITICAL ATTITUDES TO YOUTH, AGE 18-22 YEARS OLD IN THE REGION OF DUKAGJIN

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Abstract

Social networking sites are already doing better facilitator campaign, reflection, and commentary on political developments of all kinds by leaders, media, and certain majorities. The purpose of this research is to see that political attitudes are influenced by the activity of the youth of the political spectrum in these pages and whether reported gender differences in this aspect. In terms of data, this study is a quantitative type, and as a measuring instrument is used questionnaire. The questionnaire was formulated based on some questions, which are borrowed and combining from the European Social Survey (ESS) 2012/2013 on the political attitudes and social networks, as well as the questionnaire of the author Bernard Cassady which in 2011 had exploring addiction as a result of the impact of Facebook. This research involved 160 young people aged 18-22 years from three public universities in the region of Dukagjin. From the results achieved, seen a positive significant correlation (r=.994 and p=.000) and reported that the activities of the political spectrum in SNS (social network sites) related to the formation of political attitudes among youth. While categorizing the degree of the homophily items in "homophily easily" and "no homophily" were ranked 20.6 (33), 33.1 respectively (53) participants and the t-test analysis, report gender differences in the formation of political attitudes [t (1,158)=2.33, p=.021].To replicate these data in future studies and teenagers of this age should be advised to focus on academic development and in the positive usage of social network sites, and to avoid insulting debates.

Keywords: *social networks, political attitudes, homophily, youth, political spectrum*

THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INTERNET ADDICTION, ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, ACADEMIC DEVIANCE AND FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

This study aimed at examining the relationships between academic deviance, academic performance, face-to-face communication, and internet addiction among university students.

The population of this study consisted of bachelor students enrolled in the academic year 2015-2016 at the Tirana University. The sample of the study consisted of 700 undergraduate students selected by using the cluster sampling method.

The instrument employed in this study was a structured questionnaire composed of three scales and one separate item for measuring the students' academic performance. The scale for measuring internet addiction was adapted by Caplan (2010). The scales for measuring academic deviance and face to face communication were constructed by the author of this study. Cronbach's alpha of the scales used in this study was above the recommended level (>.7).

Descriptive univariate analyses were performed to determine the variation within independent and dependent variables. Bivariate analyses were conducted to examine the relationships between the independent and three dependent variables.

The study findings indicated positive significant correlations between internet addiction and academic deviance. Meanwhile the study found negative significant relationships between academic performance, face-to-face communication and internet addiction.

Keywords: *Internet addiction, academic deviance, academic performance, face-to-face communication.*

DOES ACADEMIC FAILURE AFFECTS SELF-IDENTITY, SELF-ESTEEM AND PURPOSES IN LIFE? A QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Recent studies have shown that failure is connected with self-esteem, school commitment, self-identity and meaning of life. This study examined the effects of academic failure on self-identity, self-esteem, and purpose in life in adolescents and young adults. The participants were 141 undergraduate psychology students who completed self-reported measurements after experiencing three different conditions: the first group experienced academic failure in the first exam of bachelor studies in psychology, the second group experienced success in the first exam of bachelor studies in psychology and the third group was designed as the control group during a normal university day. For the purpose of the study were employed three measurements: Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale (α = .72), Purpose in Life Test (α = .88) and Ego Identity Scale. The results showed a significant difference between the failure group and success group on purposes in life $F_{(2, 122)} = 4.583$, $p < .012$. There was no significant difference between three groups on self-esteem and self-identity. The results of the study show that academic failure may affect principally psychological flexible constructs such as purposes in life and does not affect psychological stable constructs as self-esteem and self-identity. The results will be discussed in the light of methodological limitations.

Keywords: *Failure, university students, purpose in life, self-esteem, self-identity*

MENTAL HEALTH AND UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINORS – SOCIAL POLICY – GOOD PRACTICES

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Abstract

Population movement has been a historically continuous phenomenon either individually or in more solid groups. The causes of migration in every time – historical period vary, sometimes for socioeconomic reasons, sometimes because of extraordinary political-military events and sometimes because of environmental-climatic changes. Within the concept of Globalization societies have been constantly trying to develop preparation networks for the reception of 'foreign' or better said 'new-formed' populations so that their integration can take place as smoothly as possible.

For the country of Greece there appears to be an increasingly incoming migration flow which has increased dramatically during the last decade reaching its peak in the last three years. Within this period, when migrants have flowed into the country and keep flowing in, massively as refugees, most of the times due to forced displacement from their countries of origin, because of warring conditions, Greece has been called to take urgent effective measures of social policy aiming at the management of the existing crisis.

There has been an effort in this particular study and through the relevant Literature and sources, gathering of facts and other information from the Internet, personal interviews, on the spot research and participating observation, sources from the appropriate services involved, vehicles, as well as organized associations of migrants and refugees and because of the extraordinary events that have taken place during this particular period, to record basic social policies-good practices for unaccompanied minors analyzing at the same time the aspects of the refugee issue putting emphasis on the matter of mental health.

Keywords: *Refugee Issue, Unaccompanied Minors, Mental Health, Social Policy-Good Practices*

ISSUES OF THE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, RELATIONS BETWEEN PARENTS BASED ON ALIMONY AND EXERCISE OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Abstract

This study aims to present the results of the qualitative interviews and the data obtained from the cases of the dissolution of marriage in the city of Durres regarding the economic contribution that parents offer which relates to the overall welfare of children. Issues to be addressed in this study will aim to provide a deeper and more complete understanding about the experiences of parents exercising parental responsibility and the other parent who is legally obliged to pay alimony for minor children.

The way this is accomplished is through detailed semi-structured interviews with divorced parents who have minor children, for at least a period of marriage dissolution of 1 year. The interview consists of detailed semi-structured questions, which aim to address areas or issues that are relevant to this study, followed of course by other additional questions that may be deemed appropriate by the interviewer at the time of the interview. Some of the purposes of this study are the general description in the case of marriage dissolution and the obligations of parents in relation to the physical, psychological and social welfare of the children, the determination of the amount of alimony for parents who do not exercise parental responsibility, what can be considered normal and what can be considered problematic in this process. To analyze the problems, because despite the obligation decided by the court, the parties do not pay the alimony for their children. The study aimed to analyze the factors that compel parents to not contribute voluntarily for their children, but the parent who exercises parental responsibility must seek the execution of the decision. Identification of the key factors that regardless of others, can help or facilitate this process. To raise awareness of parents to understand the consequences or effects that can result in the later stages of the life the early childhood experiences of conflicts between their parents. To identify issues

or problems that can continuously build an exclusive social environment for children, problems in education, health and general deprivation and disadvantage. To obtain the opinions and viewpoints of parents about their lives and through it to address the relevant policies. To ensure a complete data base for the child. To provide data that can contribute to the creation of effective social policies and services for children and their families.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS AND RIVALRY BETWEEN SIBLINGS AGED 14-18 YEARS OLD

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Abstract

The sibling love in accordance with the emotional ambivalence, besides its positive role (love) has also its negative role (aggressiveness). The relationship between siblings is one of the longest-lasting and most influential relationship in life.

This study aims to present the key role of parents in the management of conflict situations that occur between siblings in the family. The issues to be addressed in the study aim to provide a broad understanding about the experiences of parents in the management of these situations.

This study was based on the qualitative method of data collection, specifically in the realization of this study were used the detailed semi-structured interviews with parents who have two or more children of this age.

Some of the purposes of this study were to highlight the role of the mother in the management of conflicts and rivalry, to highlight the role of the father in the management of conflict, to identify the factors that complicate the relationship given that the adolescence is a critical moment in all spheres of life.

The Albanian culture, the mentality, the relationship between parents continue to influence all spheres of life and of course the relationship between siblings. The rivalry between siblings can be successfully overcome thanks to the work of parents.

Keywords: *conflict, rivalry, relationship, role*

HOW ARE YOU?
QUESTIONS RAISED TO GRADUATED YOUTHS WORKING IN CALL CENTERS

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Abstract:

This study examined the cognitions and insights of the graduated youth who are challenged from the job market difficulties in the Albanian context reflecting personal and job attitudes. Referring to INSTAT reports there is a growing evidence of the youth tendency towards graduation. In the meantime there is a serious demand for the employee skills leading youth to mismatched jobs regarding their education. The research question of the study is: how is over-qualification reflected in terms of the self and to the job commitment? The objectives of the study consist in describing and identifying the concept of employees' over-qualification mainly affecting the self-perception and long term commitment to the job. This is a qualitative research design using a methodology based on in-depth interviews on a purpose sample consisting in 20 graduated youths of the age 21-27 working in call centers in Tirana. Results of the study show that the reflections of the graduated youth working in mismatched jobs regarding their education is considered a personal failure reflecting loneliness, stress and doubts leading even to immigration plans. Working in call centers is temporarily seen as a solution to their financial self-management rather than a selection among labor market opportunities making them more vulnerable to frequent turnover and low job commitment. Findings of the study indicated that over-qualification is seen as a real problem related to the self-perception of the employee following clinical problems organizational problems which should be known and well addressed to work and organizational psychologists. On the basis of these findings, managerial implications in the study and future research direction has been highlighted.

Keywords: *over-qualification, employees, miss-matched jobs, education, job commitment*

THE REALTION BETWEEN ACADEMIC SELF-EFFICACY AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TO TEENAGERS AGE 13-15 YEARS

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Abstract

Aim of the study was to investigate the relation between self-efficacy and academic performance at students of elementary schools in Kosovo. self-efficacy refers to personal confidence in one's abilities for a successful accomplishment of a certain task. This research also aim to see which are the gender differences on self-efficacy and school performance. The research tends to give a prespective about those components.

Method:In this study, 65 students in the academic year 2015/2016 were selected randomly in differents cities of Republic of Kosovo. The design of study was correlational because the aim of the study was to investigate the relation between self-efficacy and academic performance. To measure academic self-efficacy was used achievement score grade point average in classes and the questionnaire about self-efficacy. To analyze data, was used correlation coefficient, and t-test.

Results:Analysis of data were done about three hypothesis of the study: The first was: "academic self-efficacy is correlated positively to academic performance of adolescents" has resulted correct, the second " girls have academic self-efficacy higher than mens" has resulted correct to , and the third "Students in urban areas have self-efficacy academic higher than students in rural areas "has resulted incorrect.

Conclusion:According to the results, self-efficacy is a considerable factor in academic achievement.

Keywords: *self- efficacy, academic, teengers.*

POSITIONING SHAME IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURAL IDENTITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AMONG ALBANIAN STUDENTS: A SEXUALLY BASED COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

The current study aims to position shame in the relationship between cultural identity and psychological distress, specifically depression among a sample of Albanian students. Therefore several research questions were raised: Does shame mediate the relationship between cultural identity and psychological distress among Albanian students? What is the relationship between cultural identity and psychological distress? How does the experience of shame relate to depression and the overall psychological distress? Is there a difference and if so, what is the difference between males and females as regards to the results of these questions?

The study is an exploratory correlative one that uses self – report measures concerning the above mentioned variables: shame, cultural identity, psychological distress and also certain socio – demographic data from all participants.

Subjects are all of Albanian family origin and born in Albania which is also their country of residence. Though it is impossible to isolate anyone from other cultures' knowledge, and/or influence this inclusion criteria aims to avoid bi-cultural participants.

The Experience of Shame Questionnaire of Andrews et al., General Health Questionnaire of D. P. Goldberg & P. Williams, The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure - Revised of J. Phinney, and The Religious Commitment Inventory of Worthington et al. were applied to the sample of the study.

Data analysis were performed using SPSS version 20.00. Main results in accordance with other research findings showed that greater identification with the own cultural identity is associated with a lower level of shame experiences and therefore a greater psychological well being and vice

versa. However it is to be noted that this relationship is only relatively significant and it does not express all sorts of shame experiences.

Keywords: *Shame, Cultural Identity, Psychological Distress, Exploratory Study*

SOCIAL INCLUSION IN TEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KOSOVO: CHILDREN'S AND PARENT'S PERCEPTIONS

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine children's and parent's perceptions on social inclusion within the school context. The sample consisted of 1039 children (48% were males and 52% females) between grades 6 through 9 in ten primary schools, respectively five municipalities in Kosovo and 1141 parents of school age children. From the total sample size, 30% of children perceive inclusiveness as an important element of the school, 25% reported that there are no "physical barriers to access school", and 40% reported that there are no "physical difficulties in entering the school for disabled students". Correlations between inclusion and individual factors such as age, gender, socio-economic status, and academic performance are conducted, as well as perceptions on social inclusion and its correlation with bullying. Results confirmed a significant positive correlation between inclusion and experiencing bullying in school ($r = .24$, $p<.01$). Furthermore, a significant positive correlation resulted between gender and inclusion ($r = .28$, $p<.01$), only for 8th grade students. Regarding municipalities, the highest positive correlation between inclusion and bullying was in municipality of Ferizaj ($r = 37$, $p<.01$) continuing with municipality of Gjakova ($r = .36$, $p<.01$). As well, there was a significant positive correlation between inclusion and employment of father ($r=.28$, $p<.01$) for municipality of Gjakova and municipality of Shtime ($r= .24$, $p<.01$).Significant positive correlational results between bullying and inclusion should be further investigated, in order to reveal moderating factors, as well as to offer specific programs that will address the work with children regarding inclusion.

Keywords: *Inclusion, community, children, school, parents, comparisons/differences between municipalitie*

ACADEMIC EDUCATION OF STUDENT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DISHONEST BEHAVIOR

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Abstract

General human formation begins in the early school years and continues throughout the all study period. Evidenced that the years at university study are under the influence of various factors, which activate cheating behaviors. Among these factors mention the social pressure to succeed, the perception that all cheat, social and family background, etc. Challenges of education in recent years were mainly focus on fighting and reducing academic dishonesty as a concern for education and students youth; as a problem that affect the future of young professionals and ensured an efficient functioning of public services in the future. This paper intended to detect dishonesty typical forms that students are engaged and the impact they have. Research question raised is: What is the frequency of dishonest behavior among students at Tirana University and Durres University? To conduct the study were administered a structured questionnaire to a sample of 670 students at ; respectively 370 at Tirana University and 300 students at Durres University; in bachelor and master level. The questionnaire was elaborated by the professor Nikoleta Mita, based on the study of literature. Among the preliminary results highlighted a significant number of cases of academic dishonesty to students at both universities; and appearance of typical forms of cheating as plagiarism and copying. Cheating on exams although is seen as wrong act, it remains among the most applicable forms in our schools. While the phenomenon of plagiarism as "new" is known by students; but there are a frequent incidence due to the lack of proper treatment and lack of information about the consequences of plagiarism application. There are some initial initiatives against academic dishonesty; but we have insufficient resources, both human and technical, in the majority of universities in Albania.

Keywords: *academic cheating, education, frequency, plagiarism, copy*

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF STAFF TRAINING NEEDS UNDER MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT IN PENITENTIARY SYSTEM

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Abstract

National assessment of staff training needs contributes to the development of human capacities within the penitentiary system of the country, hence enabling service provision in full compliance with human rights. Assessment identifies staff training needs, so orienting the process of providing staff training in the future, by meeting the identified needs according to the human and financial resources available. The aim of the assessment goes beyond mental health treatment in the penitentiary system. The methodology included both qualitative and quantitative methods for data gathering and their analysis, which offered many advantages of analysing the data through the created synergies and complementing each-other.

Regarding the typology of training there was a wide range of provided trainings with respect to their level (basic, moderate and highly managerial training) and their duration, from 1 day to 1 month. However, it is noted that the obtained information related to the trainings is not complete. This is due to some reasons, including: forgetting with the time, because trainings were years ago or there have been several trainings and remembering all of them is difficult, lack of training certificates in some cases and repetition of trainings in others. However, some basic conclusion about training typology can be drawn.

Keywords: *mental health, training, evaluation.*

THE RELATIONSHIP'S EVALUATION BETWEEN CHILD PROTECTION WORKERS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER KEYS OF REFERRAL SYSTEM

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Abstract

Child protection today is the domain of social work. Child protection system brings together formal and informal actors to achieve a common goal of child welfare. Collaboration is the most important is the most important element in this process. Child protection system cannot be understood without child protection worker. This is a field full of problems, challenges and uncertainty.

The main purpose of this paper is to reflect some key findings of child protection system, child protection worker, collaboration within the system and challenges they face every day.

In order to realize the creation of a complete view, a detailed review of contemporary domestic and foreign literature was undertaken, including scientific articles which are published recently and internationally recognized addresses which study this phenomenon. Literature review gave to the researcher's picture of concepts, variables, vocabulary, theories that exist about this topic of study.

The study of the literature on the collaboration in the child protection field has shown that researchers are limited. This introductory article will help professionals for a better understanding of the situation and will provide them different researcher's points of view.

Keywords: *child protection system, child protection worker, Collaboration and challenges*

INFLUENCE OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN GENERAL ADOLESCENT SELF-ESTEEM

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Abstract

Before teenager consolidate his identity, difficulty passing through stages of existence, fragments and attempted rebellion, resistance, experimentation stage, putting to the test yourself through all extremes and it has its validity in a self-process. This theme is focused on adolescence. In literature and cultures, age of onset of adolescence is different, however it is characterized by a rapid series of changes in terms of physiological, cognitive, emotional and social. Academic performance is one of the main features of this period of life, but here we will refer to academic achievement, grades and specifically its average.

Purpose of study: This theme is an attempt to bring an overview of the impact that academic achievement in adolescence and how several factors such as low average source and holder made of low and intermediate level of self-esteem in teens. This study raises the argument that low academic achievements related to low self-esteem in teens.

These data will constitute a contribution for school teachers' psychologists 9th year and especially parents to understand and support students emotionally in view of their academic achievements and the importance of self-assessment in full operation an individual. This thesis is applied to 100 students of first, second and third public high school "Dhaskal Todri" Elbasan selected randomly. With champion selected are applied as instruments: Rossenberg self-assessment test and dissatisfaction with the appearance of Cooper 's.

From this study, the results came in, low academic achievements to 65 % of the sample who were girls' self-esteem affect their reduction compared to men accounted for 35 % of the sample.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION STYLES AND SOMATISATION: A SURVEY STUDY WITH YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

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Abstract

Marriage is an important task in humans' development that can impact the psychological health and wellbeing. Establishing and developing intimate relationships for young adults is challenging because conflict is inevitable in any relationship. The diverse and frequent interactions of the partners in marriage provide an unlimited platform for conflict. Based on psychological theories, conflict and health are closely related. The aim of this study was to examine the incidence of somatization among young married Albanian couples and to identify their conflict resolution styles. Furthermore, this study tested the relationship between somatization and conflict resolution styles.

The participants of the study were 300 individuals from 20 to 30 years old. For the purpose of the study three measures were used: Level 2- Somatic Symptom-Adult Patient (measures the incidence of somatization), Four-Dimensional Symptom Questionnaire (measures the incidence of distress, depression, anxiety and somatization) and Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument (measures five types of conflict resolution styles). Multiple regression analysis and moderation analysis was used to examine how conflict resolution styles (compromising, competing, avoiding, collaborative and accommodating) predict somatization, distress, depression and anxiety. Almost 13.2% of Albanian couples report high levels of somatization, 37.5% report high levels of distress, 26.8% report high levels of depression and 16.1% report high levels of anxiety. The most dominant style of managing conflicts among Albanian young couples was the compromising style (M=7.28; SD=2.17). These results emphasize that it is important for psychotherapists to focus on the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships, and to explore in more depth the ways young people in intimate relationships resolve their conflict.

Keywords: *Conflict resolution styles, somatization, distress, anxiety, marriage*

SYMPTOMS AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF ADOLESCENTS WITH ADHD

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Abstract

This article reviews the characteristics of Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and the academic and social difficulties which they engender. It addresses some of the primary developmental changes that occur in the transition from childhood to adolescence and their effect on teenagers with ADHD.

Individuals with ADHD are likely to experience academic impairment however this has mostly been demonstrated in clinic-based childhood studies; non-clinical, adolescent-specific studies are few and far between (Loe & Feldman, 2007). This article examines community-based adolescent ADHD symptoms and their influence over academic attainment. The introduction to the article provides a background to ADHD and a deep analyze on influences over academic performance. Also consists of a review of the literature on the relationship between ADHD and academic performance, and explores the reasons why ADHD individuals are at an academic disadvantage.

The article describes the main findings as follows; exploratory factor analysis demonstrated that community-based adolescent ADHD symptoms form a valid dimension that is distinct from symptoms of comorbid syndromes. This provides support for the notion that the adolescent ADHD construct is a continuum-based psychopathology. The analyses revealed that ADHD symptoms exerted almost as much influence over academic attainment as general cognitive ability and school-oriented motivation, and far more influence than other forms of psychopathology. Finally, it was found that delay aversion and deficient inhibitory control did not mediate the relationship between ADHD symptoms and academic performance. Overall the results suggest that ADHD symptoms pose a significant academic risk for adolescents. Efforts should be made to increase awareness among teachers and professionals of the potential plight of adolescents who express symptoms of ADHD.

Keywords: *ADHD, adolescence, symptoms, academic performance*

THE EXCESSIVE INTERNET USE AND ITS CONSEQUENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH OF TEENS

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Abstract

Nowadays there is a proliferation of Internet use. Many aspects of daily life, including payment, booking, purchase, are being made by computers. Also, more and more entertainment is happening on the Internet, where different sites offer different interests, preferences, ages, gender, etc. Experts have defined as prolonged use of the Internet, if the person spends two hours or more a day. Excessive use of internet constitutes a public health problem, according to the importance of numerous consequences observed in health for this reason.

To study the impact of the use of computerized equipment in mental health was conducted a qualitative study. For this purpose, 14 focus groups were organized in several high schools in Tirana (urban and rural). Participating age group was 14-18 years old. There was equal participation of male and female. There was variety in terms of socio-economic status of the families of the participants and regarding of the school level.

The study revealed that prolonged use of the Internet, smartphone, ipad, laptop, desktop, display a number of problems in terms of mental health. Most participants agreed that they use internet more than two hours a day. Thus, these teens admitted that they had trouble with sleeping. They also admitted that they had symptoms of depression, anxiety, stress. Also, due to the excessive use of internet they admit they have problems at school because of distraction.

Public health should recommend appropriate intervals of time of internet usage, in order to stay healthy. Also, should be promoted more and more healthy behavior as models for leisure, such as engaging in physical activities, involvement in creative art activities, tracking of cultural activities, etc.

Keywords: *mental health, teen, internet*

INFLUENCES OF INDIVIDUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS ON YOUTH RISKY BEHAVIORS IN ALBANIA: EVIDENCE FROM A NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to investigate variations and linkages between individual and environmental characteristics and adolescents' risky behaviours. This study made use of secondary data collected by the Albanian Demographic and Health Survey (ADHS) carried out in Albania in 2008-2009. The focus of this study was on youth (N=3526) where N=2471 were females and N=1055 were males aged 15-24. The approach used in this study consisted of descriptive and correlation analysis on patterns and associations between selected variables. The analysis considered four indicators of risky behaviours among Albanian youth such as obesity/overweight, alcohol consumption, tobacco use, and comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS. The results showed that levels of overweight and obesity increase substantially by age in both males and females which means that only 10-15 percent of adolescents are obese compared to 60-70 percent of respondents age 40-49. There were no variations based on region, education, and wealth. Next, results revealed that marital status, region, and education of both men and women made a difference among respondents on having knowledge about HIV/AIDS. Thus, married, sexually active, wealthy, and educated young couples who come from urban area were more informed about HIV/AIDS (99 percent). Lastly, it was found that younger women age 20-29 smoke more (7-10 percent) than women in older age groups (3-4 percent). Smoking among women increased as they came from urban area, had high levels of education, and were wealthy. In contrast to women, men who came from mountain area and had low levels of education smoked more than those from urban area with higher levels of education.

Keywords: *youth, environment, characteristics, risky behaviours, Albania*

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BODY-ESTEEM AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Adolescence is a time of rapid development, and is characterized by significant physical, psychological, emotional and social changes. Maturation changes in body size and shape influence body image. Previous studies have shown that body esteem may be related to physical activity. The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between body-esteem and physical activity among adolescents. It was hypothesized that higher physical activity would be associated with higher body esteem. It was also hypothesized that boys would have higher physical activity and higher body-esteem than girls. This study was conducted at high school students of Shkodra. For each grade (10, 11, and 12) were randomly selected 5 female and 5 male students. A total of 356 students (181 boys and 175 girls) form 12 high schools in Shkodra took part. In this study are used quantitative research methods. Data were collected through a questionnaire which contained: demographic information (gender, age etc.), Body-Esteem Scale for Adolescents and Adults (BESAA) and questions about weekly physical activity (type of activity, frequency and duration). 4.5 % of participants had low body-esteem, about 56% had moderate body-esteem and 39.5% had high body-esteem. About 6% of female students had low body-esteem, 58% had moderate body esteem and 36% had high body-esteem. About 3% of male students had low body-esteem, 54% had moderate body-esteem and 43% had high body-esteem. 66% of students were physically active. About 52% of female students and about 80% of male students perform sport activity during a week. From all students performing sports activity 73% of them perform their sports at least 3 days a week. The relationship between body esteem and weekly physical activity was week ($p = 0.013$; $r = 0.162$). The relationship between body esteem and physical activity is significant for boys ($p = 0.017$; $r = 0.198$) but not for girls ($p = 0.780$; $r = 0.030$). The results of the present study appear to indicate that body esteem is not strongly related to physical

activity. But regular physical activity may help adolescents, especially boys, to improve their body esteem. In the future, it would be interesting to examine reasons for exercising. Implications and limitations of this study are discussed.

SOCIALIZING PROCESSES OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AT COMPULSORY EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

The new Law on Pre-University Education (Law 69/2012, amended) entitles children with disabilities to attend public schools the same way as their peers. As a result, more and more children with Autism Spectrum Disorders are part of normal public and private schools. This study sheds light to socializing processes of children with Autism in public schools. This study's aim is to contribute to inclusive education of children with autism spectrum disorders, especially with regards to the role of the psychologist in the integration of children with disabilities in normal schools by finding new ways of supporting these children to have greater social achievements.

The methodology selected for this research is case study. `The type of design in this case study is explorative and intrinsic. Main method for selecting the data is participatory observation. Transcripted data of interviews, observations and documents were processed and coded and five main themes were developed.

Through the case study, the article identifies main socialization phases, dynamics and processes of a child with autism throughout the years of the compulsory education. Findings of this study suggest that the success of inclusion of children with autism is closely dependent upon the team work of the school psychologist, teacher and parents. The success is as well dependent upon continuous training of peers, which facilitates socialization and integration of children with autism.

Keywords: *autism, inclusion, socialization, disability, school psychologist*

BULLYING EXPERIENCES: PERCEPTION OF BULLYING BY THOSE WHO LIVE IT AT SCHOOL

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Abstract

At these times students at school confront more than writing, reading, and arithmetic. Students witness and participate in various forms of bullying are an alarming rate. As educators we must help to provide a healthy environment that may conduct all students to learn.

This study examines students' definitions and perceptions of incidents of bullying that they witnessed the victim or the bully. Through 13 in-depth interviews and using the constant comparative method of analysis, the themes identified (including the reasons why students bully and are bullied) were: weight, size, clothing, and being perceived as different.

Clothing as a reason for bullying emerged as a theme that was mention by many of those interviewed. Whether it was the brand name of the clothes, where they were purchased, or the style of the clothes, several participants were bullied and bullied others because of clothing.

A unique aspect of this research was that the participants' definitions of bullying were from the perspective of those who are bullied, bully, and who have witnessed bullying. The participants in this study defined bullying as being both physical and verbal. A few participants even mentioned the idea of being isolated or ignored by one's peers as bullying.

Some participants went on to specifically mention certain actions that they felt contributed to emotional bullying. Emotional bullying is difficult to define and address proactively to reduce its occurrence.

Other students noted in their definitions the role of groups and the role of power in incidents of bullying.

These regrets were from those participants who had participated as a bully or as a witness. In addition, themes that emerged in the data included: how students perceive teachers' involvement in incidents of bullying, ways to reduce bullying in schools, where bullying occurs, and why some people bully.

Keywords: *bullying, clothing and bullying, weight, victims, violence*

EVALUATION EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN ADOLESCENTS 11-18 YEARS IN KOSOVO

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Abstract

Aim: The main aim of this study was to identify the prevalence, characteristics and distribution of emotional problems and conduct adolescents aged 11-18 years Kosovo.

Methodology: In this survey participated 1727 pupils aged 11-18 years. Of these 44.6% (N = 770) were boys and 55.4% (N = 957) girls. Their average age is M = 14.67 (SD = 2:06), boys M = 14:52 (DS = 2:02) and girls M = 14.79 (SD = 2:08). The sampling is done randomly and the study sample is stratified sample. In determining the sample was used three criteria: the criterion of the region, the criterion of residence and gender. To collect data in this study were administered a standardized questionnaire Youth Self Report / YSR 11-18 years (Thomas M. Achenbah, 1991, 2001), Teacher's Report / TRF (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001), and together with these questionnaire was administered a questionnaire compiled by researchers demographic. For analyzing the data collected is used SPSS program.

The results of this research, found out that 80.3% (N = 1387) of adolescents belong to the first degree of the normal emotional and behavior development, 9.7 (N = 168) of them belong to the second degree, whereas 10.0 (N = 172) of adolescents belong to the third or clinical degree.

Keywords: *Teens, Internalizing, Externalizing, Questionnaire, YSR, TRF.*

COMMUNITY RISK FACTORS THAT AFFECTS JUVENILES 'RECIDIVISM IN ALBANIA

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Abstract

The circumstances or factors leading to the countinuation of criminal offences in the future are similiar to those that leeded the individual to the first offence. Communities have changed a lot in Albania in the post-communism time and these changes have jeopardize their functions in protecting children and youth. In the context of the raising of juvenile'statistics involved in criminality in Albania, it's relevant to identify the community risk factors affecting juveniles' recidivism.

The aim of the research was to identify the factors at community level that were affecting the recidivism of the juveniles in Albania. The research method was quantitative (census) and a questionare was administred to all recidivists of age 14-18 yrs in Albania coming in the prison system for a period of one year.
The risk factors of juvenile's recidivism at community level were found to be the level of involvement of the adults in children's lives, the access to drugs in the community and the ethnic affilation. Other community risk factors were of no statistical significance in this research.
A preventive approach adressing the juvenile's recidivism in Albania is highly recommended to be adopted by institutions, local government and communities in Albania.

Keywords: *preventive approach, recidivism, minors, community*

RELATIOSHIP BETWEEN PERCEPTIONS OF THE SOCIAL BULLYING AND AGE IN SENIOR STUDENTS IN SOME HIGHT SCHOOLS IN ALBANIA

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Abstract

Social bullying is a form of bullying that incorporates deliberate exclusion from social groups or intimidation within the group. It can be direct, or indirect like other forms of bullying.

The aim of this paper is to investigate the relationship between social bullying and adolescents' age in some High Schools in Albania. The participants of this study were 400 students of senior year from High Schools of Tirana, Shkodra, Elbasan, Durrës and Korça.

The approach for this study is quantitative. The relationship between the perceptions of senior students about social bullying and their age was revealed using Spearman's rho coefficient correlation.

In conclusion, from the statistical analysis it was revealed that there is a quite strong positive correlation between two variables, the perception of the social bullying and age, rs =.506, n = 400, p = .000; p < .0005, that indicates that growth in ageis associated with higher levels of the perception of the social bullying.

Keywords: *social bullying, teenagers, age.*

TREATMENT OF DYSLEXIC CHILDREN THROUGH COLOUR OVERLAYS

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Abstract

Dyslexia is a learning difficulty. Despite widespread, it is little known in our country, as the number of studies conducted is limited. Through this article is intended to present a general view of dyslexia, neurobiological causes, the basic characteristics of dyslexia, and one of the treatment method, colour overlays.This study is quantitative. It is designed in the form of a quasi-experiment and aims to explore the effect of colour overlays on speed reading fordyslexic children. In this study participated 11 children (N = 11) aged 8-11 years. 9 of them were males and 2 females. Children participants were not divided into groups due to the small number of sample. All were part of the treatment group. To measure the effect of colour overlays, were conductedthree measurements. The results showed that their use led to an increase in the speed of reading for dyslexic children, namely to correct number of words that children read in a minute. The use of colour overlays can be considered as an effective alternative method for the treatment of dyslexic children.

Keywords: *dyslexia, colour overlay, test speed reading (Wilkins), visual stress.*

MENTAL HEALTH IN ADOLESCENTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES

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Abstract

Background: Diabetes has previously been linked to mental health problems in adolescents, but more recent studies have yielded mixed findings. Mental health problems represent a considerable burden to both the individual and the public health system. The aim of the current study was to compare symptoms of mental health problems, sleep and eating disturbances in adolescents with and without Type 1 diabetes in a population based sample.

Methods: A total of 150 adolescents from 11- to 20-year-olds with type 1 diabetes and without diabetes completed the questionnaires. Mental health was assessed using self-report versions of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ); the SCARED inventory for anxiety disorders; Resilience Scale for Adolescents (READ); Eating Disturbance Scale (EDS-5).

Results: 40 adolescents were classified as having Type 1 diabetes (prevalence 0.4%). We found that adolescents with Type 1 diabetes did not differ from their peers on any of the mental health measures.

Conclusions: This is one of the first population-based studies to examine mental health of adolescents with Type 1 diabetes. There was no evidence of increased psychopathology across a wide range of mental health measures. These findings contradict previous studies, and suggest that Type 1 diabetes is not associated with an increased risk of psychosocial problems.

Keywords*: mental health; type 1 diabetes; eating disturbances; adolescents, youths*

MOTHERHOOD: PERCEPTIONS OF YOUNG AND MATURE MOTHERS, PARENTAL SELF-EFFICACY AND MOTHER-CHILD ATTACHMENT

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Abstract

Adolescence is a transitional period, characterized by biological, intellectual and psychosocial changes. For the majority, this transition is gradual and smooth. Pregnancy and early parenting are non-normative changes that interfere with the developmental tasks of adolescence. This study aimed to describe and explore the perceptions and experiences of young and mature mothers and to compare the two groups in the parental self-efficacy and mother-child attachment. The qualitative research was conducted using semi-structured interviews and self-reporting questionnaires. The study sample was convenient and consisted of 16 mothers, living in Tirana. The group of young mothers consisted of eight women, 21-23 years old, who were 18-20 years old during their first pregnancy. They were ethnic Albanians, without prior psychiatric history and their children were 0-3 years old. The group of mature mothers consisted of eight women, 25-29 years old, without prior psychiatric history and pregnancy/abort history in adolescence. The comparison of the data regarding parental self-perception and mother-child attachment between the two groups tries to shed light upon developmental difficulties that face young girls who become mothers. Data analysis is in process and the results will be presented in the conference. Because of the lack of research about early motherhood experiences and their impact in development, this study aims to enhance knowledge and inform the creation and implementation of intervention programs for young mothers and their children. Further research is necessary to explore more in-depth the psychosocial factors that influence perceptions about motherhood and their impact in the development of young mothers.

Keywords: *adolescence, young mother, mature mother, parental self-efficacy, mother-child attachment*

THE ROLE OF LOCUS OF CONTROL ON THE LEVEL OF STRESS AND PERCEIVED DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS IN YOUTH

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Abstract

Locus of control is one of the factors that influence the levels of stress and depression experienced by youth. The perception of events as controllable or uncontrollable influences the levels of stress and depressive symptoms experienced by youth (Schwartz and Kaslo, 2000).

This study intends to examine the relationship between locus of control, perceived stress levels and depressive symptoms in young people.

This is a quantitative non-experimental research. The research strategy used to meet the goals of the study is the descriptive correlational model and cross-sectional typology approach.

Rotter's Locus of Control Scale, The Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) and Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) were used to collect the data. A sample of students (N=278) were randomly chosen to complete the survey.

Analysis showed a strong positive correlation between external locus of control, perceived stress and depressive symptomatology. Young people found to have external locus of control, reported more depressive symptoms and stress than those with internal one.

Keywords: *locus of control, stress, depression, youth*

CARRIER DECISION-MAKING AND ITS CONNECTIONS WITH SELECTED INFORMATION RESOURCES FROM ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Career decision addiction in teens, from sources of information is an important issue from a number of researchers, as (Julien 2004,Dervini 1992, Kuhlthan 1991).

Decision making is compound of two scale, from determination and career indecision (Osipow, Winer, Koschier, Yanico, 1987). In the study, two scales are analyzed in relation to the sources of information as work experience, personal experience, radio, television, the internet, newspapers, magazines, books /booklets school, field professionals who are interested graduates, friends, family, school psychologist. The study aims to shed light on the place occupied and the role of the above sources of adolescent career decision, in particular their domestic volatility by comparing indicators between urban and rural areas.

The study included a sample of 120 pupils at the region of Elbasan twelve of which 70 in urban areas and 50 in rural areas using quantitative research method. Questionnaire is divided in two parts, the sources of information questionnaire designed by (Bibby, Posterski, 1985, Cappella 1990) and the decision questionnaire designed by (Osipow, Winer, Koschier, Yanico, 1987). The data were analyzed using with SPSS software.

Results list the most important factor influencing informative family, after friends, profession that aspiring graduates. Resulting surprising finding, as about 57% of graduates, even though they know what they want to be, they have discovered that it is not possible and you have to explore other options. About 71.7% of high school graduates think that the school psychologist in the decision does not affect, of which 48.9% in urban areas and 22.8% in rural areas. The findings diversity is the basis for analysis and concrete suggestions that are not lacking at the end of the study.

Keywords: *adolescents, information, career, decision making*.

THE IMPACT OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS ON AN ADOLESCENT`S CAREER PLANNING

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Abstract

One of the major challenges facing young people today is to determine their future. Career planning is very important during adolescence because children begin to discover the skills, values, interests and opportunities to prepare for their future. The transition from an economy based only on manufacturing in an economy driven by information, knowledge and innovation, is making the process even more challenging to young people today. Often to come to a proper decision youth should consult with other people who are responsible for counselling or have gone through this stage of the decision. They may be parents, teachers, students of the same age, or any other source of information. According to many studies the biggest problem facing young people is to determine their personality, self-recognition. This quantitative paper aims to understand how adolescents collaborate with teachers and parents in determining their future profession. The sample of this study will consist of 1200 students selected randomly. The research will be conducted with students of grade 12 from high schools of the municipality of Podujevo, Vushtrri, Mitrovica and Drenas. Closed-ended questionnaires will be distributed to students through which they will contribute to the provision of data of this study. The purpose of using closed-ended questionnaire is to offer to the students the right questions to figure out appropriate information for this important topic. From this research it is expected to understand the impact of parents and teachers in determining their future profession in adolescents, and to investigate other reasons based on which adolescents have or have not decided for their future.

Keywords: *adolescents, parents, teachers, career planning*

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT

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Abstract

The studty aims at examining and understanding the relation between Emotional Intelligence and Perceived social support in a sample of 525 students of the University of Prishtina. Studies in the field of Emotional Intelligence indicate that this new construct of Intelligence, (EI), operates within the social context, hence the examination of Emotional Intelligence dimensions within the psycho – social variables promotes promising results for the educational context. Study hypothesis support the idea that Emotional Intelligence and it's dimensions correlate positively with the Perceived Social Support, predicting therefore positive and qualitative interactions with family, frineds and other significant individuals. The study is based on the ability and competency based model of the Emotional Intelligence. Emotional Intelligence Scale (Schutte, N. S., Malouff, J. M., Hall, L. E., Haggerty, D. J., Cooper, J. T., Golden, C. J., & Dornheim, L., 1998) and the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet & Farely, 1998) were administered to gather data in order to test the hypotheisis. The preliminary findings support theoretical and empirical perspective, and appear to be promising by emphasizing the Emotional Intelligence consutruct as an added value for the educational context, in specific, as a promising and predictive variable for youths' positive intercations and emotional wellbeing.

Keywords: *Emotional Intelligence, Social Interaction, Perceived Social Support, Emotional wellbeing.*

THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL CULTURE IN THE DEVELOPMEN OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

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Abstract

Nowadays it is impossible to understand economic and social development without the use of technology. This paper focuses on the use of digital devices, which are an indicator of the level of digital culture in the formation of certain strata of the population. The study evaluates positive and negative sides of the use of digital culture in mental development and educational performance of adolescents and youth. The goal is to answer several research questions: What is the ratio of time spent on digital devices with other activities (teaching, entertainment, sports) in adolescents and young people? What effect does the overuse of digital devices in mental development of young people and educational performance? What forms of electronic media use more Albanian teenagers and young adults? It was used quantitative research methods, through the completion of questionnaires. It was done the triangulation of data from three different sources: students, teachers and parents. The sample consists of 471 people to the north-eastern Albania, in urban and rural areas. Data analysis was done with the Excel program. Results showed that although adolescents and young people were aware of the negative effects of overuse of digital devices on their health and academic performance, the time they spend using digital devices was multiple greater than the time spent in other meaningful activities teaching. According to them, the technology improves cognitive skills, some habits of critical thinking and some skills, learning a foreign language, etc. While the negative effects of overuse of technology such as: increased levels of stress, fatigue, isolation, addiction, lack of concentration, damage of hearing and eyesight, detachment from reality, etc., were evaluated as influencing not good for their mental and physical health. This paper serves not only teachers, parents and students, but also a broader mass of the population.

Keywords: *digital culture, adolescent development, impact, use of digital tools.*

SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF YOUTH WITH SPECIAL FUNCTIONAL NEEDS TROUGH THE CROSS-MEDIA

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Abstract

Ukraine is in the process of transition to a social model of disability, which aims at integration of this category in the society instead of segregating it. The process of social integration of young people with special functional needs is especially important at the age from 15 to 24, because it is a period of personality formation.

Social integration is an important element of rehabilitation process. It can help young people with special needs to reach information, to obtain socio-cultural services, to get accessible forms of creativity. The most important factor of socialization is socio-cultural activity. This factor helps to raise self-esteem of youth through being involved in dialogue and coordinated activity.

The main aim of social integration is to recover social interactions and social connections of youth with special functional needs. As a part of this activity young person with special physical features can acquire or develop communication skills.

Cross-media platforms enable young people with special needs to use different social networks and platforms. New technologies reveal more opportunities for communication, exchanging and retrieving information, creativity and self-realization, work and education.

Currently there are real examples of cross-media platforms in Europe. For instance, the project Eye Contact Now (Estonia) is an international community that promotes social integration and entrepreneurship of disabled people with the help of visual culture and modern cross-media solution. The main idea of this project is to encourage people to create their own narratives around their lives with the help of photography and storytelling. Photography and visual culture in general is a very powerful tool for creating new stories and a great opportunity to initiate communication between people and their environment. This project helps to create community of disabled people and local citizens and to assist them in discovering new ideas and self-realization.

Keywords: *cross-media, young people with special needs, social integration.*

SHAME DESCRIPTON AT MIDDLE CHILDHOOD

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Abstract

This article is focused on the study of shame emotion, how is described and perceived by 9 years-old school children. Literature and researches that are focused on the emotion of shame see it combined with other emotions and pschycological variables that are closely related or overlap with it. Analogue studies about Albanian population are difficult to be found and this highlights the need for increased researches in this field.

The study is based on research questions whose focus is the description of shame emotion at children of ages 6-7 years (first grade), 9-10 years (fourth grade) and 12-13 years (seventh grade), highlighting the differences between age groups in the description and perception of shame emotion and the detection of differences between urban and rural areas about shame emotion.

The methodology of this study is qualitative. The sample was casual and participants belonged the age 6-13 years old (N=132). The instruments that have been used are a semi-structured interview to explore the emotion of shame and an observation protocol.

The results showed that there are differences in the way of shame description when we pass from one age group to another and from urban to rural areas. Moving on at the elder ages, shame description becomes more situational and self-awareness about shame emotion grows up. It was noticed that there were differences in the manner of articulation and in the amount of description about this emotion.

Keywords: *emotion, shame, middle childhood*.

INTERRELATION BETEEN MOTIVATION AND SELF-REGULATED LEARNING TO THE ADOLESCENTS AND GENDER DIFFERENCES

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Abstract

This is a quantitative study which has collected and analysed data for motivation and self-regulated learning to the adolescent's. In this research are included 404 subjects, 188 males and 216 females. Participants were students from 10th and 11th grade from "Hamëz Jashari" gymnasium and ShMT "Anton Çetta in Skenderaj (202 from gymnasium and 202 from ShMT).

The first hypothesis of this study was *highest levels of motivation are interrelated with higher levels of self-regulated learning",* is made the correlative analysis between self-regulation and sub-scales of motivation and is reported positive relation with self -regulation and these results are important and they support this hypothesis. While the second hypothesis of this study was "*Males report higher levels of internal and external motivation in comparison with females",* is made Mann Whitney U analysis for all sub-scales and in six from seven sub-scales are reported important gender differences which support this hypothesis. Third hypothesis of this study was l*evel of the self-regulated learning is higher to females in comparison with males"*, is made Mann Whitney U analysis where males showed an average M=190.53 whereas females M=212.92, these differences are important p< .053, so they support the hypothesis. Is made factorial analysis where to the motivation instrument are identified six factors, whereas to the self-regulation instrument are identified five factors.

Factors of the both variables have reported relation between them, whereas regarding gender differences to the motivation factors males have reported higher average than females, but to the self-regulation factors females reported higher average in comparison with males. Results of factorial analysis support general results of the hypotheses of this research. Instruments used: Vallerand, et al., (1992) developed the Academic

Motivation Scale (AMS), through the Concepts of the Self-Determination Theory and Pintrich, P. R. & De Groot, E. V. (1990). Motivational and Self-REGULATED Components of Classroom Learning Academic Performance (MSLQ).

THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS IN GENDER EDUCATION OF ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Including gender perspective at school is a necessary condition for human development, while the assurance of gender equality in its essence is a matter of respecting human rights. It starts with accepting the fact of gender equality, it follows with the way boys and girls are represented at school and are extensively conveyed to the curricula created and implemented in school textbooks and teaching methodologies. The integration of gender equality in education is an expression of the school's engagement in the actualization of the fundamental international documents and the country's legal background.

Reality shows that in the aspect of education there is a considerable gap between genders, based on measurable indicators. According to this conclusion, *the aim* of this study is to make a systematic research to identify the presence of gender stereotypes, the form in which stereotypes are portrayed in textbooks, and how they influence the education of youth. To satisfy the aims and objectives of this study and answer the research questions posed, this research uses the method of content analysis. Through this method, it is analyzed each piece of information, (the written and illustrations) using qualitative methods (content analysis) and quantitative (identifying, counting and interpreting gender motives in illustrations and content). The sample of this study was 35 textbooks of secondary school, issued during the years 2009-2012. These textbooks were analyzed in detail based on 4 predefined categories: 1. Frequency of men and women illustrated; 2. Professional roles; 3. Personality traits; 4. Usage of unilateral language.

The results of this study indicate the presence of gender stereotypes in the portrayal of characters for men and women in the textbooks, in the

professional aspects, in illustrations, as well as in the aspects of personality traits and unilateral gender language used. This analysis identified evident problems, which deserve the attention and reflection of all the actors of the education system in Albania.

Keywords: *gender stereotypes*, *gender education, gender distinctions, school textbooks, curricula.*

PARENT-ADOLESCENT COMMUNICATION AND SEXUAL INTERACTION IN ADOLESCENCE

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Abstract

The importance of this study includes parent-adolescent sexual communication as a factor that can positively affect safer sex behaviour among youth.

The main objective is to examine adolescents perceptions of parent-adolescent communication about sexual behaviour, including what adolescents report that their parents say about sex, and how parental messages relates to sexual risk.

The talk about sexual intercourse is often one of the most challenging conversations for parents and children during adolescence. Research has established that parent-adolescent communication about sex can reduce adolescent's sexual risk. However, many parents still avoid these conversations due to uncertainty or lack of confidence in how to best educate their children on topics such as sexual health and relationships.

Fifty school adolescents on Tirana area, 12-19 years old, completed a survey about parent-child conversations about sexual intercourse, as well as adolescent's perceptions of attitudes, behaviours, and family communication climate related to sexual risk. Instruments used include Parent-Adolescent Communication Scale (PACS), Adolescent Sexual Activity Index (ASAI), Sexual knowledge and attitudes test for adolescents (SKAT-A), Questions about Family/Parent-Child Relationship and Communication. Through analyses, some parent-adolescent conversation themes emerged, including safety, warning/threat, no talk, and wait.

Results revealed themes in which parents could made the conversations ideal, including appropriateness, be more specific/provide guidance, talk and collaborate. The analyses also showed that perceived parental communication competence and effectiveness were the strongest negative predictors of adolescent are permissive sexual attitudes and sexual risk-taking.

Keywords: *sexual intercourse, adolescence, parental communication, healthy sexual development, sexual risk.*

THE PREVALENCE AND SOCIOECONOMIC PREDICTIORS OF ANXIETY SYMPTOMS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS IN KOSOVO

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Abstract

Background/Aim: Problems with anxiety are one of the most common presenting problems that mental health practitioners encounter, including for college students. The aim of this study was to identify demographic and several socioeconomic variables associated with anxiety symptoms among college students.

Methods: The study was a cross-sectional survey. A total of 550 college students (111 male and 439 female), randomly sampled from every study year of 5 faculties from two private and one non-public university, took part voluntary. A self-administered anonymous questionnaire which comprised of demographic and socioeconomic variables and Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI)-a short list describing 21 anxiety symptoms which bothered them in the past week, were used. Pearson chi-square, analysis of variance (ANOVA), and multiple regressions were used to analyze the data.

Results: The prevalence of anxiety symptoms was 40.7%. The anxiety symptoms were significantly related to the gender (p =.001), study year (p =.024), academic results from previous studies (p =.000), satisfaction with grade point average (p =.000), parental employment status (p =.024), and the order of birth (p =.000). Other interest variables in the study did not show significant relations with anxiety nor prediction effect on anxiety.

Conclusions: These results demonstrate that the high rates of anxiety symptoms among college students are related to academic and non-academic backgrounds. It is important to examine more in depth demographic, socioeconomic and especially psychosocial factors, as these are potentially modifiable and could be the focus of college-specific mental health interventions.

Keywords: *anxiety, prevalence, students, predictor, socioeconomic factors*.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENCE CURRICULUM IN PRE-UNIVERITY EDUCATION IN ALBANIA AND IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Abstract

The aim of the study is to research in comparatively way the development of science curriculum in pre university education in European countries and in Albania. Research hypothesis include: (1) There are differences in the way of implementation of science curriculum in primary, lower secondary, and upper education in European countries and in Albania. (2) There are differences in the structure of pre- service and in- service training of science curriculum teachers in pre university education in European countries and in Albania.

Methodology used in the study is based on a quantitative approach and supported by qualitative one, include the techniques: (1) review of official documentation, (2) observation by self-declaratory instruments. The instruments used in the study include: (1) format for review of official documentation, (2) interviews. The sample consists of teachers of science curriculum as well curriculum specialist's respondents.

The study conclusions highlight that: (1) In the majority of European countries there are a defined number of teaching hours of science curriculum according to respective grades; in Albania is given in total according to key stages. (2) Mean value of annual teaching classes in European countries is 137.4 annual taught classes; in Albania there is 158. (3) In almost every European country and in Albania science curriculum in primary education is taught as an integrated course, in lower secondary education as well as in upper secondary education is organized as separated in physics, chemistry, biology, and earth science courses. (4) New teachers of science curriculum coming from universities with updated knowledge on science, but they lack proper training and experience of teaching methodology. (5) There is a lack of coordination, planning, needs identification of continuing professional development of teachers.

Keywords: *science curriculum, integrated curriculum, separated curriculum, science teaching*

AN OVERVIEW ON DYSLEXIA AND ITS IMPACT ON ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Dyslexia, also known as specific reading difficulties, is the most common form of learning difficulty with a prevalence of 10% or more of any given population. Dyslexia is neurobiological based disorder. It causes difficulties in reading, writing, spelling and organization. Dyslexia affects not only academic performance but also self-esteem and social-emotional development.

The aim of this study is to identify and describe the impact that brings dyslexia in adolescents.

Adolescence is a period of transition that is stressful for youths who have reading difficulties.

Studies show that young dyslexics feel anxiety, anger, depression and low self-esteem. They often have lowered self-esteem and decreased motivation to learn and experienced embarrassment and anxiety in situations in which they are required to read or write. They drop out of school at higher rates than their peers without reading problems.

As a result early intervention and treatment of dyslexia is very important. All this prevent academic failure, depression or anxiety that young dyslexics can experienced if they are not identified or treated in early age.

Keywords*: dyslexia, identification, self-esteem, depression, anxiety*

EXPERIENCES OF ADOELESCENT GIRLS ON EARLY MARRIAGES IN THE RURAL AREAS

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Abstract

Introduction: Albanian law framework defines the age 18 as the minimal legal age to marry between a man and a woman. Regardless of this, the court can approve marriage at an earlier age for some "important cases" such as pregnancy or emigration of the husband to be. According to statistics the early marriages phenomenon in adolescent girls is noted in rural areas or in poor isolated communities where a strong patriarchal mentality prevails. This process causes some psycho-social and economic consequences. Aim: The aim of this study is to explore the experiences, perceptions and points of view of adolescent girls in rural areas in connection with early marriages. Methodology: The scientific method used for this study is the qualitative one. The instrument used for gathering the data was the in-depth interview, half structured with open questions. The data was gathered through a process of interviewing 12 adolescent girls that were married at an early age, in the rural area of Tirana. Results: This study showed that the main causes of early age marriage were poverty, low social-economic level, low education level, patriarchal mentality and the decisive role of the father for deciding their future. The consequences according to them were pregnancy and early parenthood, long term unemployment, lack of communal services, stigma and people's mentality, low chances for individual development. Although, most of them were optimistic about things changing in the future, like increase in communal services, change in mentality, more chances to develop and participate in social life. All of them emphasized that more should be done in this field because these adolescent girls need special and continuous support.

Keywords: *adolescent girls, early marriage, rural areas.*

THE RISKS OF ADOLESCENTS FROM EXCESSIVE USE OF THE SOCIAL NETWORKS; THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND THE RUELS SET FOR THEIR USE

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Abstract

Internet and especially the social networks are used massively nowadays by adolescents occupying a significant part of everyday life and reducing communication and time spent with their families.

The purpose of this study is to explore the perspectives and attitudes of parents towards the use of internet and social networks by their children.

The research questions: (1) Which are the views of parents on the potential dangers of internet use by their children? (2) Which are the rules that parents use to monitor the use of internet by their children? (3) How effects the rules used by parents on the behaviour of adolescents to use internet?

This study is an exploratory research model. Is used qualitative method of data collection because it gives a deeper understanding of the selected population? This is a cross-sectional study, because examines the problem only in a certain moment of time.

Data collection was conducted through semi-structured interviews. The selected sample consists of 20 subjects, 10 parent-child couples.

It is used the method of keeping records. Qualitative data collected during the study appear in the form of words. Data management is done manually. The findings of this study show that the majority of parents are concerned about the long-time children stay online. According to parents, the use of social networks makes adolescents more isolated, have negative impact on their learning results and leads to developmental problems such as insomnia, irritability, lack of concentration, and restrictions on the use of inappropriate websites. Parents set rules that determine the use of social networks at home during their stay, which include; appropriate time of day to access the Internet, restrictions on the time spent on the Internet, etc.

However, the results showed that adolescents do not always adhere to the rules set by their parents.

Keywords*: parent, adolescent, social network, rules.*

HOW TO BRIGE A TRUSTFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUTH AND DENTISTS, A PARADIGMA FOR ROMANIAN MEDICAL SETTINGS

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Abstract

The present article aims to underline the impact of counselling on psycho-somatic health and its improvement on the dental act of consulting. More specifically, our paper presents findings from a qualitative study recently realised both on children and parents who were visiting the dental praxis in central Romania.

The paper supports a further implementation strategy of intervention in the dental field, using innovative methods and skills.

Emphasis was given to a better understanding of the importance of counselling procedure before consulting.

Keywords: *youth, development, dental, counselling, consulting, Romania*

MENTAL HEALTH OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

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Abstract

The health and mental well-being of children and adolescents in general is good. Most are satisfied with their lives, perceive their health to be good and do not regularly suffer from health complaints. The main problems of the first half of the 20th century, such as acute infections and high infant mortality, have diminished in importance. Instead of physical disorders, mental illness accounts for a large and growing share of ill health among children and adolescents in Europe. Including emotional problems this may conduct problems and learning disabilities came to the fore in the middle of the last century. Currently within the frame of mental health and socio-economic influences on health have risen to achieve importance within child and adolescent health. World Health Organization – (WHO) declared that young people's mental health is a key area of concern to which professionals and policy-makers must direct their attention (WHO 2005).

Focusing only on mental health disorders does not give the whole picture of the state of mental health among young people. A general problem is the predominant understanding of mental health as the absence of mental disorder. Risk factor research has focused on mental health problems rather than strengths and positive outcomes. Consideration of resilience has emerged from research indicating that a proportion of young people have had a positive life trajectory despite having faced diverse potentially harmful life experiences. Worldwide, up to 20% of children and adolescents suffer from disabling mental health problems.

Mental Health of Adolescents and Youth it is a very problematic issue, that is not expressed only with two elements. This required a lot of analysis and statistic to arrive for a result which serve to us for knowing and preventive the problem. As an issue we must identify two major part of this: What is mental health? (definition, cause, diffusion, ages, preventive) What can we do to improve the mental health of Adolescents and Youth? (family, society, hospitals, school and public places)

The estimates of psychological problems and disorders may therefore be higher than is reported in studies. On an individual level, mental health problems can have deteriorating effects on young people's social, intellectual and emotional development and consequently on their future. At its worst, they can lead to loss of life. Suicide is one of the three leading causes of death in young people and a public health concern in many European countries. Besides the negative effects on an individual level, mental illness affects also many other spheres of life – family, friends and society at large – causing costs not only in health care system.

Furthermore, there are close links between child and adult mental illness – the presence of mental illness during childhood may lead to up to 10 times higher costs during adulthood. Children are our future. Through well-conceived policy and planning, governments can promote the mental health of children, for the benefit of the child, the family, the community and society.

SUCCESS AND FAILURE IN SCHOOL RESULT OF PERSONAL, FAMILY AND SCHOLASTIC FACTORS

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Abstract

Values and norms of society inherited are subject of deep changes. Increasingly earlier in their youth young people are confronted with the question which place can and want to take them to a world characterized by global developments. These social changes require a new way of thinking, which is far from the current situation and developments. Even schools as socialization environment, doesn't remain unaffected by these changes.

School educates its individuals in order to ensure progress, also it is the place where a large part of identity formation occurs. If there is a lack of conditions, then some pupils find it appropriate to drop out of school in search of their missing identity. The problem of dropout of youth is present for several years and is increasingly focused in today's media. More and more young people who have the desire to work, to education and work places, which are becoming reduced.

Most of the young people seeking work and education is included in the measures taken by the service in the labor market, but it is another part that doesn't visit the school, not logged in, nor has any job. Precisely the last ones in this competition have no chance for a secure future.

The study analyzes those factors, including social development, although indirectly, influence attitudes, motivations and individual prospects for the future of young people.

Keywords: *socialization, identity formation, school abandoning, school as a socializing institution.*

INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS IN SCHOOL LIFE IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THE FORMATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS ACTIVE CITIZENS IN SOCIETY

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Abstract

The involvement of parents in school life brings positive impacts. The beneficiaries of this involvement are primarily students. Children whose parents are involved in school life, are characterized by high expectations, a positive attitude toward school, positive behavior and increase interaction with peers (Koonce & Harper, 2005). But beneficiaries are parents, teachers or the school itself. School-family partnership plays a very important role for the formation of children and young people as active citizens for the society and country.

The study focuses on the question of progress in the involvement of parents in school life with the pass of children from one class to another based on the perceptions and evaluations of parents about the benefits of their involvement in school life and the changes that occur over years.

The population of the study included 300 parents of pupils of 9-year education from different schools in the district of Elbasan, with whom was conducted a survey regarding the assessment that they have for this involvement and what it happens to their commitment over the years .

The study confirms the conclusion expressed by different researchers that over the years the involvement of parents in school life tends to weaken for various reasons, but also draws attention to the ways that must be followed to ensure the preservation of the partnership between school and family in favor of sustainable education and training of children and youth.

Keywords: *parental involvement, benefits of parental involvement, pass of pupils from one class to another*

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN PRISON 302 IN TIRANA

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Abstract

Education of the population is always perceived more as an opportunity to develop a country and keeping the young people away from crime and delinquency. Therefore, the policies of rehabilitation process in prisons/detentions gave a particular importance to providing educational and vocational training programs. The aim of this study is to explore the importance of developing education / vocational courses as perceived by young people between the ages of 18-21 detainees in the prison 302 in Tirana, Albania, but also the expectation that they have by taking part in these courses to be re-integrate after release. The study included 15 young people, who detained in June 2016. The study used the method of semi-structured interviews to collect the data. Findings showed that the participation of young people detained in educational programs or vocational courses that take place within the penitentiary institutions have a significant impact on the organization of their lives, help them to cope with the stress and weight of insulation, but and in the acquisition of new knowledge. Important is the fact that they are optimistic about the future and said that this opportunity provides from custody, will profit them to integrate into life after sentence. One of the key recommendations of the study emphasizes the fact that the prison population should be actively encouraged to participate in educational programs, including brochures and other forms of information.

Keywords: *education in prison, detained, reintegration expectations.*

THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL VICTIMIZATION ON STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

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Abstract

Introduction: Worldwide research evidence shows that experiencing victimization in school is associated with negative mental health outcomes. The issue of school violence, victimization and mental health of students has become a major concern for schools, parents and mental health professionals, worldwide. The presence of high rates of victimization among youth in Kosovo has been documented throughout recent studies. Goal: This study investigates the interplay of physical, psychological and sexual victimization in the mental health of Kosovar young adolescents, while controlling for demographic variables as well.

Method: A total of 380 elementary school students from two public schools located in the municipality of Prishtina and Gjilan took part in the research survey. The survey sample were selected randomly from the list of school classes. For this specific paper the following measures were used: Kessler Psychological Distress scale - K 10, α = .92; Measure on Physical Victimization 9 item, $=\alpha$ .67; Measure on Psychological victimization 4 items, α = .610; the measure on Sexual Harassment 8 items, α = .76 and demographics.

Results: According to the study results, victimization is present among the adolescents. From the total sample (67%) reported to have experienced physical victimization, (49%) psychological victimization and (34%) sexual harassment, within the last months According to the research findings there is an interplay between the level of victimization and psychological distress. Students who were victims of physical, psychological and sexual harassment showed higher means of psychological distress compared to those who did not experience any victimization. No significant differences were identified among the level of victimization and psychological distress in regards to gender. However, findings from hierarchical logistic regression show that being female, experiencing physical victimization and sexual harassment increase the odds for experiencing symptoms of psychological distress, while

controlling for socio-demographic characteristics (age, parent's educational level, family size, school successes and perception about family financial status) and final model explained 23% of variance [Nagelkerke R^2=.236; 2(10)=59.945, p<.001].

Conclusion: Results show that psychological distress is associated with victimization at school and as such findings provide implications for designing prevention and intervention programs which tackle specific forms of victimization.

"VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) AN ALTERNATIVE TO MY FUTURE": PERCEPTIONS ON VET AS AN OPTION FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR ALBANIAN YOUTH

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Abstract

Increasing VET enrolment has been a resilient priority of all VET strategies in Albania. Recently, VET is stressed as an optimal alternative for youth employment. Despite a positive trend in enrolment figures, current levels are yet far from the average of OECD countries. Hence, questions arise as to how do youth perceive and relate to VET and what is helping or inhibiting this relation?

To address them, we employ a qualitative approach exploring issues of attractiveness, access and equal opportunities in the system. Individual in-depth interviews (15) as focus-group discussions (6) were used to gather data from key-informants, and pre- and post-VET and general high school (GHS) students, amounting to a total of 75 participants in the study.
Findings confirm that there exists a strong stereotype across gender and age-groups, regions and sectors that VET is a 'second-hand' education alternative. VET is rarely a first choice, unless the youngster is either performing poorly in school or cannot afford the other (optimal) path for skills development –the university. The poor reputation of VET is reported to be (un) intentionally reinforced by different actors, often leading to discouraging facts and figures. In comparative terms to GHS, vocational schools (VS) are perceived as dominated by students of below average academic performance.

Curricula and staff are rated as significantly better in GHS, while those of VS are considered narrow and poor. Also in terms of employability and mid- or long-term career objectives, VET is considered to have only one advantage –early potential entry to the labour market. However, the

disadvantages outnumber this advantage. VET usually leads to jobs which are not well-paid, are insecure, and dominated by informality. Finally, VS are not attractive to youth as they offer little or no socio-cultural life. Gender segregation is very strong in VET which often leads to even poorer and less stimulating environments.

PREVALENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN ULCINJ

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Abstract

Mental health problems are relatively common in adolescence and the early detection is of great importance since adolescent's mental health problems are known to have high continuity to adulthood. The study aims to report the prevalence of mental health problems of adolescents 11to 18 years attending five primary and secondary schools in Ulcinj where there is a lack of standardized methods to monitor adolescent's mental health problems, there are few psychologists working in the field and there is a lack of research too. There is only one school that has a school psychologist. Thus, there is a current need to detect adolescent's mental health problems in order to offer the psychosocial help they need.

The authors decided to use The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) to screen for mental health problems in general. The questionnaire will be administered in adolescents as well as in their parents. Positive and negative attributes are assessed using 25 items comprising five dimensions: emotional problems, conduct problems, hyperactivity/inattention, peer relationship problems and prosocial behaviour. The statistical analysis will be based on the sample data weighted to represent the age and gender of the participants.

The study will offer a descriptive overview of the problems reported by adolescents and parents and will explore the correlations between parent and self-reported ratings of adolescents. The observed prevalence of mental health problems will call for intervention programs for adolescents and cognitive behavioural parenting interventions.

Keywords: *mental health, adolescents, Strengths and difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)*

THE RELATIONSHIP OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND ANXIETY IN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS – KOSOVO CASE

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Abstract

Background/Aim: Previous research has found relationships between levels of emotional intelligence with academic achievement and anxiety. This study aims to explore: whether the academic achievement and anxiety correlate with and have an impact on emotional intelligence and whether gender has any mediating effect on these outcomes.

Methods: A total of 433 (281 female and 152 male) college students completed the TEIQue questionnaire, which comprises 153 items responded to on a 7-point scale, measuring 15 distinct facets, 4 factors, and global trait EI. Academic achievement was measured using the cumulative achievement average, while the data for anxiety was gathered by using Beck Anxiety Inventory. Data were entered into the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) v21 and analysed using Pearson bivariate correlation, T-test and hierarchical regression tests.

Results: Results revealed a significant relationship only for academic achievement with self-control ($r = .130$, $p = .020$) and emotion regulation ($r = .190$, $p = .001$). The academic achievement and anxiety showed a week negative significant relationship ($r =.-169$, $p = .002$). The hierarchical regression showed that gender was significant in predicting a student's academic achievement (b = 126.10, t = 2.25, $p = .025$) and total EI (b = -.134, t = -2.39, $p = .018$). The anxiety showed a significant prediction (b = 102.85, t = -2.21, $p = .028$) only on academic achievement. Both variables contributed an additional 2% of the variance in EI score (F(3, 320) = 2.771, p = .042).

Keywords: *emotional intelligence, academic achievements, anxiety, students, correlation, prediction.*

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE, PERSONALITY TRAITS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Introduction: Adolescence is a period of life when psychological changes happen very rapidly. A lot of studies have documented the association between perceived parenting styles, personality traits psychological health of adolescents. Aim: The purpose of this study was to investigate how perceived parenting styles can be related with personality traits, and psychological health among adolescents.

Methods: Three measurements were administered in this study: CORE-OM, NEO-FF, Scale of Parenting Style (SPS). A convinient sample of 300 adolescents (33.8% boys and 66.2% girls, age M= 17,617, SD= .5716) was asked to complete the measures. Participants were recruited from five high schools in Tirana, Shkodra and Tepelena.

Results: The overall results showed that 40,5% of parents were perceived as negligent. The analysis of multiple regression show that mother preceived as negligent predicted adolescent traits of Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness and Agreeableness, while father preceived as negligent predicted Risk toward Self/Others. Perceived parenting style of mother as permissive or authoritative predicted the trait of Neuroticism, Subjective well-being and Problem Dimension of psychological health. Perceived parenting style of father as authoritar and mother as authoritativ predicted the trait of Extraversion. Perceived control from both parents significantly correlated with the traits of Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, subjective well-being and Risk toward Self/Others.

Conclusions: Perceived parenting style predicts adolescent personality traits and psychological health. The results of the study can be used to increase parents selfawarenes about the impact of parenting practices. Further studies may explore more in deepth preceived parenting style as a predicator of other psychological functions.

Keywords*: adolescence, perveived parenting style, psychological health, personality traits.*

PREVALENCE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION: A PILOT STUDY IN DURRËS AND TIRANA DISTRICTS

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Abstract

In this pilot study, a total of 100 high school students of aged 15-17 years were screened for depression symptoms. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of the depressive symptoms in this pilot sample and to examine gender differences in depression symptoms.

The Beck Depression Inventory was used as a screening test. Of the study group, 6% of the students had borderline clinical depression symptoms while 8% of the students had moderate to severe levels of depressive symptoms (total N=14). From these group of students the most depression symptoms were seen in females (F=10; M=4).

The results highlight the need for students' parents and teacher to be well informed on identifying depression symptoms and as well the need for preventive programs that aim the students' wellbeing and positive development. Further implication regarding diagnosis and other important services are discussed in the paper.

Keywords: *High school students, depressive symptoms, mental health, positive development*

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION ON THE LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ROMA ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

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Abstract

As one of the main social institutions, Education has a significant role in shaping and influencing the life and development of adolescents and youth as well as of their families and communities.

Coming from different backgrounds, students in schools expect acknowledgement of and respect for their differences, identity and dignity. When this does not happen, they feel intimidated, disrespected and humiliated and decide to react in various forms of creative maladjustment (Kohl, H., 1994). Therefore, respect for and promotion of diversity should be at the heart of the school climate, policies and practices.

In this paper, we examine the impact of education specifically on Roma adolescents and youth as well as their reaction and progress by asking several questions: How easy is it for Roma youngsters to access education? How do Roma adolescents and youth feel in different education institutions? What are the attitudes of teachers toward Roma students and of non-Roma students toward Roma students and vice-versa? Are there inner school policies and practices that promote multicultural and inclusive education?

The findings, which are part of the continuing work of the doctoral thesis of the author, will be based on qualitative data. The interviews and conversations will be conducted based on the purposeful and snowball sampling, suitable for the interpretation of experiences and perceptions of the respondents.

These findings will help creating a better understanding of the situation of Roma community and specifically Roma youngsters in the context of education as one of the most significant means of integration and socialization, hence supporting policymaking at local and national level.

The instrument to collect data will be that of in-depth interviews with Roma and non-Roma youngsters, with teachers and other school community members. Moreover, direct observation and conversations will complement the empirical data, which will be analysed using also relevant education scholars' contributions.

THE IMPACT OF COMMUNICATION TO ADOLESCENT ANXIETY IN NUCLEAR AND EXTENDED FAMILY: ARE THERE ANY GENDER DIFFERENCES?

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Abstract

Background/Aim: Communication within family is considered an important factor for adolescents' development; otherwise, a lack of communication may lead to anxiety, depression, drug abuse etc. The aim of this study was to assess the impact of communication in families on symptoms of anxiety in adolescents aged 11-18 and to verify all possible differences of this impact depending on the type of family and gender.

Methods: There were 534-participants; 284 girls and 250 boys aged 11-18, who voluntarily participated in the study. The Faces IV questionnaire, a 62-item self-report scale, was used to assess the adolescent's perception of important aspects of their family environment. Each item used a 5-point scale, ranging from "Does Not" (0) to "Very Well" (5). Youth Self Report/11-18 years was used to collect tha data regardind the anxiety. Adolescents were asked to fill out 118 items on a 3-point scale based on the occurrence of the behaviour during the preceding 6 months: 0 if *the problem item was not true*, 1 if *the item was sometimes true*, and 2 if *it was very true or often true*. The chi-square, T-test for independent groups and linear regressions, were used to analyse the data.

Results: According to gender, communication was confirmed as a predictor of anxiety for girls. Meanwhile by the type of the family, communication was confirmed as predictor for anxiety only for girls living in extend families.

Conclusions: The results demonstrate that communication within families are positive and encouraging. However there are several factors that lead to differences in communication between boys and girls. Further studies, are strongly recommended in order to understand the how of interactions of all factors related to family function.

Keywords: *adolescence, communication, anxiety, gender, family.*

PARENTING WITHIN TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES AND THE INFLUENCE ON THE WELL-BEING OF TEENAGERS

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to explore the influence of parenting within transnational families on the teenagers' well-being. According to Bryceson and Vuorela (2002) tansnational families are "families [where family members] live some or most of the time separated from each other, yet hold together and create something that can be seen as a feeling of collective welfare and unity, namely 'familyhood', even across national borders". The experience of immigration at Albanian context, have often created that kind of family, which is very significant even today. Transnationalism usually is seen as a temporary condition for Albanian families, but, because of factors related to the country of origin or with the receiving country, it has become a long term process, influencing the life of the family members. In condition of physical distance, the parenting process becomes very complex, influencing on the well-being of the children, especially of the teenagers.

The method used to gather the empirical data was qualitative one. 22 semi-structured in depth interviews with members of 7 transnational families, have been done and, through thematic analysis, data have been structured and analyzed. The analysis focused two lines: the exploration of the perceptions, feelings and attitudes of parents on one hand, and the exploration of the well-being (emotional, educational and health statement) of the children on the other hand.

The research identified different models of parenting and different levels of teenagers' well-being at the transnational families who participated on this study. Several factors, such as: the rapid virtual communication, the possibility to move abroad without visa permission etc., help the parenting process and increase the possibility for good levels of well-being for the teenagers, however, the challenges of parenting at the transnational condition still remain hard to be faced.

Keywords: *transnational families, parenting, well-being, teenagers.*

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND REPORTED PEER VICTIMIZATION IN LIPJAN KOSOVO

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Abstract

Introduction: School climate from student's perspective is an overall evaluation of school life more specifically experience of its norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices, and organizational structures within school. This specific paper explores the student's perception of school safety, school policies on addressing violence, relation with teachers and engagement in making rules and how they associate with reported victimization among primary school students. It was assumed that negative school climate perception would be associated with higher levels of reported victimization among students.

Methodology: The paper is based on study conducted with a representative sample of randomly selected 890 students, approximately 20% of 6-9 graders from Lipjan municipality in Kosovo. Permission from relevant authorities and parents was requested prior to study. The study used a wide battery of questionnaires as part of a larger research project of Department of Psychology of University of Prishtina.

Results: The inter-correlation among the variables show a significant negative correlation among all subscales measuring various dimensions of school climate with measures victimization forms [example correlation ranged from r=-325, p<,001 between safety and mild/moderate victimization to lowest levels of r=-.067, p<.047 between participation in rule making with mild/moderate victimization]. Multiple regression analysis resulted that teacher support and school safety accounted for 13% of variance in mild/moderate violence; policies addressing violence and school safety accounted from 10.5% of variance in severe victimization and same variables accounted from 9% of variance in reported sexual victimization.

Discussion: Finding from the study are consistent with research literatures suggesting that specific dimensions of school climate are relevant for reported victimization.

Keywords: *school climate, victimization, sexual victimization, Kosova*

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IMPULSIVITY AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN ADOLESCENTS OF PRISTINA

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Abstract

This research was done to understand the correlation between psychopathology and impulsivity among adolescents in Pristina. In this research participated 300 adolescents, of whom 205 female and 95 male, aged from 15 to 19 years old.

The research was conducted in high school, students have been very cooperative and responded with responsibility and honesty. Participants in this study were selected through a probability method with stratification. This research was conducted through three questionnaires: a questionnaire for demographic data, Barrat- BIS questionnaire with 11 questions to measure impulsivity and YSR (self-reporting questionnaire for youth) to measure psychopathological disorders, questionnaires are construct with closed questions, according to the Likert scale. According to Cronbach's alpha each questionnaire has high internal consistency. This study includes a review of the theoretical literature on all implicated issues with this theme, also deals other studies with the same subject, with the help of their findings also sets his goals. The goals of this study are: first the understanding of correlation between impulsiveness and psychopathology, then understanding of the level of psychopathological disorders among adolescents, gender differences in the appearance of psychopathological disorders, etc.

The results of this research show that the more impulsive teens are more psychopathological disorders will have, medium degree of positive correlation. In general the level of impulsiveness at adolescents of Pristina is it at low and medium level. This survey includes also theoretical analysis about all these issues.

Keywords: *adolescence, impulsiveness, psychopathology.*

PSYCHOLOGICAL DETERMINANTS OF DIETING AMONG TEENAGE GIRLS 15-18 YEARS

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Abstract

During high school girls are a group at risk for developing eating disorders. Eating problems that appear in this period can range from dissatisfaction with body image, in keeping non-pathological diet to clean eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia nervosa. While only 3-5% of all adolescent girls suffer from the eating disorders (Levine, 1987), most of them are on diet (Rossen & Gross, 1987). The purpose of this study was to achieve recognition of risk factors in the development of eating disorders and determining to what extent those factors contribute to forecast dieting among teenage girls 15-18 years.

A correlation research design was utilized to address the research objectives. The method used for data collection is surveying. A total of 200 adolescent girls aged from 15 - 18 attending a Gymnasium and three vocational schools in the city of Podgorica participated in the study. Measuring instruments used to collect the research data in this research are: Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale, Body Shape Questionnaire, Neurotic Perfectionism Questionnaire and Retention rate of diet in adolescents. Demographic information such as age, class of school, height and weight were also collected.

Findings show that 70% teenage girls aged 15-18 years keep diet. Results of this study detected high correlation between the variables of self-esteem, body image dissatisfaction, neurotic perfectionism, keeping diet and the difference between real and desired BMI.

Keywords: *diet, eating disorders, self-esteem, dissatisfaction with body image, neurotic perfectionism, teenage girls*

ALTERNATIVES IN ADDRESSSING SOCIAL IMPACT AND VALUE CREATION AMONG ROMANIAN TRAFFICKED YOUTH

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Abstract

Romania is the first on the top five source countries within the European Union, when the numbers of human trafficked victims is called into question. Unemployed youth, minor women and children are the most vulnerable category for human trafficking, a phenomenon more visible mainly after the opening borders, in 2007. This was the moment when, the free movement of people encouraged not only massive migration but slavery export, either under the forms of forced labour, sexual services, begging, or of forced robbery. For example, only during the last two years, official data at European level registered 6,101 trafficked victims from Romania.. Based on a conceptual research design, we attempt to provide a broad understanding of this modern slavery phenomenon, in each particular setting.

Therefore, the aim of this descriptive paper was to draw a comprehensive map of Romanian human trafficking inside and outside the country. Secondary data analyses available from official statistics, government documents and relevant non-profit organisations in the field, were used, as main research methods. In addition, his communication is supported by the an on-going transnational project "Social Growth on Migration & Trafficking" ('SoG-MiT'), attempting to address the issues of human trafficking, immigration and refugee crisis. Such project targets prospective social entrepreneurs, focused on unemployed youth, immigrants, refugees, and survivals victims of human trafficking by establishing socially innovative, scalable and financially sustainable ventures. The paper will discuss the novelty of such innovative research prospective, upholding thus, a relatively new model of co-creation and social innovation, designed to support the growth of social values and to facilitate undergoing youth human trafficking traumatic experiences.

Keywords: *youth, human trafficking, social entrepreneurship*

MARRIAGE DIVORCE OF THE PARENTS AS STRESSOR FACTOR AT ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Marriage divorce in this century is a prominent socio-cultural phenomenon. Numerous researchers of family and marriage have focused their attention on economic, racial and religious problems by which there can be noticed a shift in cultural values and the specific social forces that are distinctively stressor and directly affect the functioning of the family. Many spouses are unable to create appropriate adaptive mechanisms to cope with the impact of changes on their marriage and the family, thus, together with their children are at risk of stress.

The consequences of divorce are reflected in all family members, especially children who are in a phase called adolescence as a period of psychological and cultural transition stage between childhood and adulthood. The aim of the research is to examine whether the divorce of the marriage of the parents causes stress at children.

The sample of the survey consists of 40 divorced pairs (where 40 kids are included).The studied cases are samples from divorced pairs who have kids aged 13-17 years old wich are identified at the JU- Inter-municipal Center for Social Work in Tetovo in a period of time from 01.01.2016 until 30.09.2016.

The resulst analysis will be gathered from the results of the tests that the kids will undergo. The stress level of the kids is studied by Karl Torenson through the test of the Self-assessment at Stanford University. The results of the survey showed that many children perceive the divorce of the marriage of their parents as stressful event that affects their psychosocial development. Results of the survey showed that the divorce of the marriage of the parents is a risk factor for stress in children in this developmental stage having as regard their age, vulnerability, socio-psychological and economic conditions. Significantly higher level of stress is found in children who are abused by their parents.

Keywords: *divorce, symptoms of stress, adolescence, family.*