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Implementation of Environmental Management Practices into Corporate Management

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Abstract

In this article, we zoom in the issue of voluntary environmental management practices and their adoption by companies. Based on comprehensive literature review of previous theoretical and empirical studies, we would like to outline environmental management practices in business, focusing on voluntary standards for environmental management systems (EMS), particularly on EMAS and ISO 14001 as the most common standards in European region. Following general definition of EMS, we aim to summarize the view on motivations of firms to voluntarily adopt EMS, as well as the view on implications of EMS adoption. We deal with following questions in this study: what are EMS and what do they serve for, why firms choose to implement voluntary EMS into their corporate management processes and what are expected and real costs and benefits related to EMS adoption by firms.

Keywords: corporate management, environmental management, financial performance, firm performance, EMAS, ISO 14001.

Human rights deprivation of Roma community in Bitola, Republic of North Macedonia

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Abstract

People from Roma population in Bitola live in very bad living conditions. One part of the Roma community lives on the verge of humanitarian catastrophe, without basic utilities such as water supply, sewage, electricity and road infrastructure. These people are citizens of the country, but because they live in illegal dwellings, are deprived of the right to register residence, a prerequisite to obtain citizen identification card (ID). The people who are citizens of the country but have no ID are seriously deprived of their human rights, because their access to social and healthcare insurance is denied, cannot be legally employed, cannot vote, cannot open bank account, are unable to use municipal assistance and support programs etc. The consequences of deprivation of human rights of this vulnerable group of people are comprehensive and include: Public health risks; Unequal access to education and segregation in schools; Dramatically fewer opportunities in life; Widening of the social gap between the communities; Strengthening prejudices and stigmatization. The awareness for this problem is very low, since the Roma community is not well integrated, has no visibility to the general population and has low political impact due to poverty and lack of education. This article discusses the ethical issues and efforts of various interested parties and stakeholders, in solving the administrative problems that so far lead to human rights deprivation.

Keywords: Roma community, Human rights, Poverty, Social injustice

The crisis management strategy of the UN family against the impacts of the new coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19)

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Abstract

The new coronavirus pandemic has brought one of the worst health and economic crises of our time resulting in more than two million deaths cases and the loss of hundreds of millions of jobs. Moreover, the crisis has pushed millions of families into poverty, especially in the least developed countries. As a result of national restrictions, international tourism has also come to an almost complete halt, and domestic tourism has been hampered by restrictions within countries. The unprecedented spread of the virus and the crisis it caused has made the international community aware of the need for comprehensive solutions to the global problems. The WHO led international crisis management is brought together by the United Nations family and its partners. Experts from all relevant United Nations' bodies, financial foundations and specialized bodies have compiled a rapid response plan and a knowledge base covering all sectors, regions and social groups as a guideline for developing national crisis management strategies. To implement all the programmes the UN needs \$34.8 billion from which \$22.5 billion has been raised so far.

Keywords: coronavirus, crisis management, United Nations

Ethnographic Artifacts and Visual Art: An Anthropological Approach

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Abstract

Anthropological interest in cultural diversity is the most important point behind the creation of large collections of artifacts from all regions of the world. Usually these artifacts are stored and exhibited in museums built specifically for this purpose. Especially these collected works can be in complete contrast with the works of art that define the national heritage of a particular region in ethnographic collections. But since artworks are a visual document that sheds light on the cultural life of the era, the preservation and presentation of these works is a very important issue for all countries. The unique culture of each region of the world has been lived by the people for centuries and passed on to the next generations. At the same time, the works of the societies, which have a rich cultural feature and transferred to the next generations, have become important works that serve as documents and evidence today. These local artifacts, which have rich cultural characteristics, are ethnographic artifacts that are also used in daily life, such as clothes, fabrics, textiles, rosaries, tombs, kitchen tools.

This study aims to highlight the subtle differences that exist between cultural heritage, ethnographic artifacts, popular traditions, national collections, and high arts. These classifications are placed side by side to understand the contextual perceptions associated with various cultural productions from different parts of the world. The study will focus especially on ethnographic artifacts, visual arts with an anthropological approach.

Keywords: Visual art, Clothing culture, Ethnographic artifacts, Anthropological approach, Culture

Fostering Autonomous Learning in the Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Is it a Myth or a Fingerprint?

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the teaching learning process witness some challenges that positively emphasize the use of e-learning among developing countries mainly in Algeria to help learners progress and continue their learning. Though the over emphasize on the use of e-learning in Algeria especially in teaching English for Specific Purposes (ESP), curriculum developers, syllabus designers, and classroom instructors are still hesitant and uncertain that it would assist language instruction and help learners practice autonomous learning. In this light, the current research paper aims at discussing the significant role e-learning plays in helping ESP learners to be autonomous agents in their learning practices and the expectations stakeholders have in using e-learning to introduce the concept of autonomous learning among ESP students. In hope to collect data on this issue, the researcher used a survey and designed two questionnaires administered to five ESP teachers and thirty-five third-year business students to gather data on teachers' perspectives and business students' readiness on e-learning as a move towards autonomous learning. After the data gathering phase and its analysis, findings from the two research instruments revealed that teachers find the pandemic as a sound reason to strengthen e-learning among business students, and they are positive to its use to stress autonomous learning. Business students are both positive and ready to take an initiative and be responsible agents in their learning practices and start thinking about being autonomous learners. Therefore, autonomous learning is an important concept that needs extensive research especially to students with specific purposes.

Keywords: COVID-19 pandemic; E-learning; ESP; Autonomous learning.

Knowledge and Attitudes of General Population Towards the Children Beggars

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Abstract

Children beggars are common phenomena in bigger cities in Republic of North Macedonia. The mobile team of the In4Child Project has identified 34 children beggars on the streets in Bitola, all of Roma ethnicity. The aim of the study is to determine knowledge and attitudes of general population in Bitola towards the phenomenon of child begging. The study is epidemiological, with 437 participants who anonymously answered 5-items questionnaire. The results show that 1 in 10 participants finds that there are not many children beggars on the streets in Bitola, only 15.3% never give money to children beggars, 24.7% think that they help by giving money to children beggars, 88.6% think that children beggars are abused, and 86.3% know that children will remain on the streets begging if people give them money. The age group affects the attitudes towards 'giving money to children beggars' ($p < 0.001$); 'opinion of helping the children by giving them money' ($p = 0 < 001$) and 'opinion that children are abused when begging' ($p = 0.039$). Older people significantly give less money to children beggars, are more aware that by giving money they do not help and are more aware of child exploitation. The sex also influences attitudes, male participants are significantly less aware about the number of street children who beg, and are less informed that giving money to children beggars endorses the phenomenon and leads to further exploitation.

Keywords: Children beggars, Child exploitation, Child labor, Street children, Roma community, Poverty

Industry 4.0: The position of EU member states in the mains indicators

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Abstract

Next- generation technologies are rapidly changing the structure and nature of the economy around the world. The three previous industrial revolution were caused by the expansion of mechanical production equipment, the removal and subsequent use of the steam engine, the gradual electrification of factories and the rapid development of ICT in production. The fourth industrial revolution is forcing a new societal change on large scale. From changes in digitalization, automation, education, research and development, technological standardization to the labor market. The digital age brings new technologies, innovation and trends. They create pressure on the economy and dynamically change the world and affect all areas of life. The aim of this article is to provide a comparative view of EU member states in areas that are primarily determined by the ongoing industrial revolution. The use of available statistical data summarizes selected indicators thus evaluates the position of individual countries in the areas of greatest impact Industry 4.0.

Keywords: Industry 4.0, innovation, digitalization, ICT, R&D

Social Sciences and Intercultural Education in the Greek Primary School: The case of Social and Political Education

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Abstract

The present paper focused on drawing attention to the importance and the role of the social sciences in the diffusion of the values of Intercultural Education at school and in the wider social environment. More specifically, what was explored was the possibility of promoting and accepting the basic principles of Intercultural Education through the subject of Social and Political Education taught in Greek primary schools. Therefore, an attempt was made both to highlight the importance of the subject of Social and Political Education as one of the most important subjects of social sciences in Primary school, although in the school schedule it occupies a position that degrades and marginalizes it, and to present the basic principles and values of Intercultural Education, such as empathy, solidarity, intercultural respect and the anti-ethnocentric / anti-nationalist way of thinking and their connection with basic units of the subject of Social and Political Education. The method used was content analysis and the findings demonstrated the importance and usefulness of the subject of Social and Political Education for the cultivation and promotion of the principles of Intercultural Education.

Keywords: Social Sciences, Intercultural Education, Social and Political Education, Greek Primary School.

Distance Learning in the Shadow of Pandemic Covid - 19 in Greece

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Abstract

In general, pandemics start at some point in time, progress in duration and space, with increasing intensity cause individual and collective crises and move towards closure. They exert pressure on societies and their structures, causing crises. After the Second World War, the normality of people around the world was no longer disturbed until the pandemic Covid-19. Then at the speed of light, the pandemic Covid-19 traveled to Greece from the city of Wuhan at the beginning of March 2020, disrupting our regularity and the operation of our social systems. This was followed by the forced closure of all educational institutions in the country at all levels. E-learning which was developed years ago was the most powerful weapon to support distance education which was the mediating link between educators and students in order to continue the learning process and reduce the cost and impact of the pandemic on educational events. Greece continued its educational work with the slogan "We learn at home". The aim of the present study is to investigate the effects of distance education mainly on children during the first period of their confinement at home.

Keywords: E - Learning, Distance Learning, Covid - 19 Pandemic.
