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Resilience of Tangible and Intangible of Cultural Heritage to Climate Change

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Abstract

Climate change, with its extreme weather events and environmental degradation, ranks among the greatest threats to cultural heritage. Its adverse effects on both tangible and intangible aspects of culture are often considered in relation to cultural properties. In the Albanian context, there is an urgent need to understand the extent to which climate change influences cultural heritage, as a foundation for developing new strategies to preserve this legacy. This paper aims to assess the threats posed by climate change and other risks to cultural heritage, proposing measures to prevent destruction, enhance protection, and strengthen related policies. Through a review of key literature, participatory research, and in-depth interviews, an initial framework for understanding the impact of climate change on cultural heritage was developed. The interdisciplinary research highlights various approaches to securing sustainable development through the preservation of cultural heritage. Focusing on the protection of Albanian cultural heritage, the paper examines both protective measures and the role of local and policy-making processes in promoting effective resilience strategies. The discussion underscores the importance of addressing current challenges to ensure that cultural heritage can be transmitted to future generations. It also emphasizes the value of collaborative initiatives involving individuals, local communities, stakeholders, and governmental organizations as custodians of cultural heritage

Keywords: Culture, heritage protection, climate change, resilience.

The role of literary text in foreign language learning

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Abstract

Literary text in general and poetry in particular is one of the artistic forms of the language use. Apart from its artistic form, this kind of text can be widely used even in foreign language classes in different ways, either in spoken or written language. The place that literary text occupies in school programs of foreign languages still remains negligible considering the nature of the activities proposed in the text. In this point, it's the duty and privilege of the foreign language teacher to give the right importance to the literary text during the process of learning and teaching of a foreign language. Frequently placing the literary text in the centre of teaching and learning brings forth numerous advantages, especially in the aspect of motivating students and creating an attractive environment during this process.

Keywords: poetry, literary text, motivation, creativity, spoken language.

Reflecting on the Academic Publication Ethics

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Abstract

The advancement of the scientific research during the last decades also meant a growing concern for ethics. A famous maxim formulated in the middle of the 20th century, namely ‘science cannot wait until ethics catches up’, is no longer valid nowadays. Regardless of the research field (humanities and social sciences, life sciences, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics), in fundamental or applied types and developed at the individual or institutional levels, the academics are more and more responsible as regards the integrity of the science and of themselves as the main agents in the complex process of carrying out research, of sharing and publishing their works. An ethics is required, seeing that the truth according to which ‘an excellent science means an excellent ethics’ cannot be evaded. In such a context, a peculiar attention must be paid to the publication ethics. All the involved subjects in this domain and, in the first place, researchers, peer reviewers and editors have to prove (and improve) an authentic ethics. The authors must, first and foremost, be aware of their major responsibility. Often, they disclose a difficult situation in which they are: to deal with dilemmas; for example, that they face a claim to make their results known and to disseminate them under the pressure to publish and, unfortunately, to undergo dominant quantitative evaluation once the saying ‘publish or perish’ became a kind of trendy condition; at the same time, they understand to do the best quality research that supposes no less to demonstrate an ethical conduct. In this essay we emphasize some reflections on the particularities of the ethics applied to scientific publishing and we try to unfold possible ways of solving ethical dilemmas as the mentioned one. Obviously, there is a necessity of a robust academic ethical education built on the ground of acknowledging its core values and principles’ importance, addressing the valences of the moral reference. And, consequently there is a need of the fundamental ethical approaches in shaping the mentality and behavior of the professionals who really can contribute to the progress of science guided by the good and well done work. Our purpose is to highlight the significant potential of morality to be activated as an essential support of scholars in their effort to balance between aspirations in their scientific work and the requirements of the research publication to eventually meet the demands for the wellness of humans in harmony with everything there is alive in the world we have access to, stressing the great value of ethical education.

Keywords: ethics, scientific research, academic publication, moral values and norms, education

Demographic and Economic Challenges in Post-Transition Albania Implications of Population Aging

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Abstract

This study examines the multifaceted implications of Albania's demographic transition, characterized by accelerated population aging, declining birth rates, and significant youth emigration. These demographic shifts have profoundly impacted Albania's economic structure and social policy frameworks. Rapid population aging has increased the financial strain on the Social Security Fund, exacerbating disparities between contributors and beneficiaries. Rising pension expenditures, coupled with reduced economic productivity and workforce emigration, threaten the sustainability of the social security system and necessitate urgent reforms. The findings emphasize the importance of comprehensive measures, including pension system restructuring, enhancing labor force participation, and targeted development policies addressing urban-rural disparities. Youth emigration, compounded by the "brain drain" phenomenon, has further weakened the country's human capital, complicating efforts to stabilize social and economic frameworks. This research underscores the critical need to address intergenerational equity through inclusive policies fostering cohesion among demographic groups. Ensuring economic sustainability and fostering sustainable development require Albania to adopt forward-looking reforms in public finance and labor market policies, aligning demographic strategies with broader European standards.

Keywords: Albania, demographic transition, population aging, youth emigration, pension reform, economic development.

Albanian Infant Mortality: Challenges Towards a European Future

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Abstract

Infant mortality is one of the most important indicators of socio-economic development and a key measure of the health conditions of a country. After 34 years of post-communism in Albania, this indicator remains of significant interest for analysis and discussion within the framework of European integration policies for the country. Despite socio-economic progress and healthcare policies aimed at improving this indicator, infant mortality in Albania remains high compared to European countries. This study focuses on analyzing infant mortality levels from the pre-communist period to the present day, examining the factors that have influenced mortality trends and how these trends compare with those of the region and Europe. The research is based on data from public national and international databases on infant mortality, including INSTAT, WHO, UNFPA, and Eurostat. The study also addresses the policies needed to reduce infant mortality rates in Albania to align with European standards. Recommendations include improving healthcare access, maternal and child health services, public health awareness, and socio-economic policies targeting vulnerable populations. It highlights the importance of sustainable policies to ensure that Albania aligns with European health standards, thereby contributing to reducing infant mortality and improving child health outcomes in the country and the region.

Keywords: Infant mortality, Albania, post-communism, policies, region, Europe.

Effective communication. Its role in the teaching process, as well as the process of cooperation and knowledge of students in their curriculum in the digital age.

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Abstract

Introduction: Today society is rapidly developing, as well as the rapid growth of information, it is required from the teachers to use strategies, efficient techniques and in particular the use of effective communication, as well as communication using digital platforms in the teaching process with aim to prepare students as best as possible to be successful in the future to face the challenges of the time.

Communication is the ability to share information involving a sender and a receiver.

Effective communication is the key job skill in the teaching process. Teachers are individuals who develop effective communication skills.

The way he communicates, how he transmits knowledge, as well as the ability to reflect creates the possibility of developing students' skills, increasing the degree of interaction, as well as creates the student's ability to use strategies to learn.

But this process is not as easy as perceived, this process requires skills, strategies, professionalism, as well as a high degree of use of digital platforms in the teaching and learning process.

Being an effective teacher means that, in addition to a high scientific level in the subject of biology, he must possess management, communication, organizational skills, as well as create a positive climate in the classroom, where he can create interactive relationships with students, promoting motivation, care, enthusiasm and kindness.

Teachers who communicate effectively are friendly, understanding, helpful and supportive, managing to create an attractive classroom climate, managing to control it by being more liked and respected by students, achieving a higher level of student learning in the subject of biology.

For the realization of this study, literature was identified and analyzed where different authors have different approaches to this problem. At the same time, a concrete study was carried out in the gymnasiums of Tirana and Kamza, where concrete results and conclusions were drawn in relation to the selected topic that will be treated in this study.

Purpose: With the help of this study, it is possible to find out the role of effective and digital communication in the process of teaching biology, in creating the classroom climate, as well as how much the students understand and appreciate where they stay, learn and learn, with aim to increase the level of students' learning in the biology curriculum.

Methodology: Quantitative and qualitative methods were used in the realization of this study. The study is based on the use of methodological instruments such as questionnaires, free conversations, direct interviews with teachers and students in order to collect data to reach more accurate conclusions for the study.

The study was carried out in ZA (Tirana) and (Kamez) high schools, specifically: "Aleks Buda", "Ibrahim Rugova" and "Elez Isuf Ndreu".

Results: The study showed that effective communication alternating with digital communication is an innovation for effective teaching, creating an appropriate and positive climate for learning more efficiently.

At the same time, the study highlighted that the students in their interviews also expressed opinions that there is room for improvement on the part of the teachers in terms of the way of communication.

The study also concluded that teachers need methodological training in particular for effective communication, classroom management, as well as the use of digital platforms in the teaching process.

Conclusions: Being an effective teacher, as well as knowing and implementing digital platforms is very important in creating a positive and supportive climate by achieving effective teaching, which will manage to raise a higher level of student learning. .

Effective and digital communication will achieve:

- Promotion for students and teachers;
- Promotion of social and emotional learning;
- Promotion of academic learning

Keywords: effective communication, teaching, strategy, approach, curriculum, platform.

Analytical learning: Utilizing data to improve student outcomes in biology. A case study in middle schools in Tirana.

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Abstract

This case study investigates the impact of analytical learning strategies in biology on improving academic outcomes and fostering student engagement in middle schools in Tirana. These strategies encompass critical thinking, the breakdown of complex biological concepts, data interpretation, and problem-solving-centered learning. Among the challenges faced by education systems today, this study underscores the significance of analytical learning in equipping students with the skills needed to address future academic and professional demands. The research combines a literature review with qualitative methods such as teacher interviews, classroom observations, and pre- and post-diagnostic testing. Results show significant progress in concept comprehension, motivation, and collaboration among students. The study offers practical recommendations for integrating analytical learning methods to create dynamic educational environments that connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications.

Study Goal: To examine and validate the effect of analytical learning strategies on academic achievement in biology.

Methodology: This case study utilized qualitative approaches, including interviews with teachers and classroom observations, to evaluate student engagement and collaboration. Additionally, pre- and post-diagnostic tests were conducted to measure improvements in students' understanding of biological concepts following the application of analytical learning methods.

Results: Key findings reveal marked advancements in students' mastery of biological concepts and their ability to apply these concepts in real-world contexts. Furthermore, the study highlights enhanced motivation and collaborative skills among students during the learning process.

Keywords: Analytical learning, critical thinking, problem-based learning, active learning.

A Literature Review on the Cultural Challenges in the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship

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Abstract

This paper presents a literature review on the cultural challenges influencing the development of women's entrepreneurship. Through a comprehensive analysis of literature and international practices, the study highlights that traditional gender norms and social discrimination are among the primary barriers faced by women entrepreneurs. These challenges range from structural limitations in developing economies to underrepresentation in innovative sectors in developed countries. The review provides a detailed examination of how these obstacles affect the performance of women entrepreneurs and emphasizes the importance of inclusive solutions such as mentoring, the creation of support networks, and empowerment through education and training. Furthermore, the paper offers a comparison between developed and developing countries to understand the diverse nature of cultural barriers and their impact on the growth of women's entrepreneurship. The findings underscore the necessity of addressing cultural challenges to foster a supportive environment that promotes gender equality and economic development.

Keywords: cultural challenges, social discrimination, traditional gender norms.

Analysis of the Financial Performances of Commercial Banks in the Republic of Serbia

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Abstract

Commercial banks are key institutions in the financial system of every country. By collecting available funds from individuals and legal entities and directing them to economic entities that need these funds, banks facilitate the smooth functioning of the economy in each state. In carrying out their primary activity of mediating between various economic entities, banks face numerous risks that directly affect the quality of their operations and can diminish financial results. To minimize these risks and ensure uninterrupted business operations, it is necessary to measure and analyse the financial performance of banks, which represents a measure of the success of resource management in achieving set business objectives. This paper presents various instruments and indicators used in the analysis of the financial performance of commercial banks, as well as their practical application to commercial banks in the Republic of Serbia.

Keywords: Commercial banks, financial performance, bank risks, financial performance indicators, capital adequacy, liquidity, profitability
