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Exploring the Use of Games in Teaching English at Curriculum Stage I

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teuta Agaj Avdiu¹,

Arta Hoxha²

¹Public University "Kadri Zeka", Kosovo, teuta.agaj@uni-gjilan.net

²Public University "Kadri Zeka", Kosovo, arta.q.hoxha.st@uni-gjilan.net

Abstract

This study examined the use of games in teaching English to students in the first curriculum stage in Kosovo, focusing on their advantages, challenges, and impact on classroom dynamics. The use of games was considered an important pedagogical tool for increasing students' motivation, engagement, and active participation, as well as for developing language skills, including vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and communication. The methodology employed was qualitative, based on semi-structured interviews conducted with 13 teachers from both urban and rural schools. The results indicated that games such as Hangman, Scrabble, Role Play, and Taboo were particularly effective in enhancing language skills and social interaction, while creating a dynamic and enjoyable classroom atmosphere. However, teachers also identified several challenges, including time limitations, classroom management issues, and differences in students' language proficiency levels, which require careful planning and adaptation of games. In conclusion, the use of games in teaching proves to be a highly effective strategy for improving English language learning in the early stages of education, making the learning process more enjoyable, interactive, and inclusive.

Keywords: Educational games; English language teaching; Curriculum Stage I; young learners.

Mental dynamics of returnee immigrants in Georgia

Vladimer Lado Gamsakhurdia

Tbilisi State University

E-mail: ladogamsakhurdia@gmail.com

Abstract

This presentation examines the lived experiences of returnee immigrants in Georgia through a qualitative panel study conducted with individuals who previously spent extended periods abroad. The research explores how returnees navigate social reintegration and the complex emotional, psychological, and practical challenges that emerge upon their return. Findings reveal that many participants struggle to feel “at home” in their homeland, reporting heightened feelings of alienation, cultural mismatch, and weakened social belonging. These difficulties are often intensified by challenges in securing employment, as returnees find themselves out of sync with local professional networks and economic developments in their hometowns.

Participants consistently described elevated levels of stress and anxiety during their reintegration process, with many expressing a persistent sense of instability and internal conflict. The study highlights a recurring pattern of contemplating re-migration, driven by both economic uncertainty and an enduring belief that better opportunities and stronger personal alignment may exist abroad. By applying a longitudinal qualitative approach, the research captures how these challenges evolve over time and how returnees’ identities and aspirations shift through repeated reflections. The findings contribute to broader discussions on migration cycles, reintegration policy gaps, and the psychosocial dimensions of return migration in contemporary Georgia.

The Role of Entrepreneurial Leadership and Community Networks in Empowering Sri Lankan Entrepreneurs in Hungary

Rajapaksha Mudiyansele Chamila Prabhodhani Bandara

*Department of Management and Leadership, Faculty of Management, Budapest Metropolitan University, Hungary
E-mail: chamilaprabhodhani@gmail.com*

Abstract

This study examined the extent to which entrepreneurial leadership and community networking have empowered Sri Lankan entrepreneurs in Hungary. Sri Lankans with entrepreneurial aspirations are migrating to Hungary for educational and career development purposes. The study confirmed that many community members are willing to become entrepreneurs if given the right opportunities. No previous research had examined the extent to which their leadership skills and community networking contributed to entrepreneurial success. Despite more than sixty years of diplomatic relations between Hungary and Sri Lanka, no research had been conducted on Sri Lankans in Hungary, and this research aimed to fill that gap. Data were collected using a mixed methods approach. Quantitative data were collected from 98 Sri Lankan respondents via a Google Forms questionnaire, and qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews with five Sri Lankans who were looking to start or had already established businesses in Hungary. The sampling strategy combined purposive and convenience sampling methods. Purposive sampling was used to select interview participants, and convenience sampling was used to collect questionnaire responses. Descriptive analysis was used to interpret and summarize the quantitative data. Since qualitative data were also available, thematic analysis was applied to the semi-structured interview responses. The findings highlighted that strong community networks and leadership skills significantly influenced entrepreneurial aspirations and business success. This research contributed to a better understanding of how migrant communities, especially Sri Lankans, used leadership and networking to establish businesses abroad, and may also provide insights for policymakers and support organizations in Hungary.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Leadership, Community Networks, Migrant Entrepreneurship, Social Capital, Sri Lankan migrants in Hungary

Tourism Employment Expansion and Labor Productivity Trade-Off: Evidence from Albania

Volfrida Toma ¹

¹*Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Albania
Corresponding Author: e-mail: volfrida.toma@unishk.edu.al*

Abstract

This study examined the relationship between tourism employment expansion and labor productivity in Albania over the period 2014–2024, with a particular focus on the existence of a trade-off between employment growth and efficiency. While tourism is widely recognized as a driver of economic development in emerging economies, the extent to which employment expansion translates into proportional productivity gains remains underexplored. Using annual secondary data on GDP per capita and tourism employment, labor efficiency was calculated as output per employee. The analysis applied descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and simple linear regression modeling to assess the interaction between employment levels and productivity dynamics. The results revealed a moderate negative correlation between tourism employment and labor efficiency, indicating that increases in employment were associated with reductions in output per worker. Regression analysis confirmed this trade-off effect, showing that each additional 1,000 tourism employees corresponded to an average decrease of approximately 1.9 USD in productivity. Furthermore, a structural comparison demonstrated that average efficiency increased by 8.86 USD per employee in the post-pandemic period (2020–2024) compared to the pre-pandemic phase (2014–2019), suggesting sectoral adjustment and productivity improvements after 2020. The findings indicated that tourism growth in Albania was initially labor-intensive but showed signs of efficiency-oriented restructuring in recent years. These results contribute to the literature on tourism-led growth by emphasizing the importance of balancing employment expansion with sustained productivity enhancement.

Keywords: tourism employment, labor productivity, efficiency, trade-off, tourism growth, Albania
