

Einreichung Abstract

12. Tag der Lehre der FH OÖ am 16. April 2024

Einreichung bitte **bis 2. Februar 2024** via Conftool: <https://www.conftool.net/tdl2024>

Format der Einreichung

- Präsentation (20 Minuten Vortrag + 10 Minuten Diskussion)
- Mini-Methoden-Workshop (45 Minuten)
- Poster (1 Seite im Format A0)

Promoting a sustainable learning environment in universities, including students with different cultural backgrounds

Abstract

Creating safe and constructive conditions for international students is not limited to the design of the classroom environment; it does not even include only the university environment. Instead, it is sparked when the student sees the educational program on the website. It is recognized by issuing a visa and becomes a reality upon entering the country. All factors, including the immigration police, the transportation system, the passengers who travel with the student in the vehicle, the target municipality, and the neighbors, are involved in forming the student's positive mentality. It is very simplistic if we think that a reliable and controlled classroom environment contributes the most to improving the quality of the student experience, of course, if the classroom environment could remain wholly neutral and pleasant in all cases. Teaching the target country's language, holding intra-university cultural events, classes to identify intercultural customs, and recreational camps are the minimum measures a university is obliged to take, and all these do not provide the necessary deterrent against the social harm that threatens international students.

In addition to the psychological and social security features of the programs, their practical applications are also vital, and contrary to the prevailing opinion, these two goals are not separate way. These two are basically two intertwined characteristics that each affect the other.

Therefore, the fundamental question is, " Which strategies and coordination measures should be taken to improve the quality of education and the student's social-psychological development?"

To answer the first part of this question, in addition to all the current methods, the student's educational and career history must be carefully examined by experts who know the student's community of origin. Also, the student's age should be taken into consideration so that it is consistent with the educational course. Thus, course materials should be agile in the real sense, not as agile is considered only a slogan.

But to guarantee the quality of the students' socio-psychological experience, continuous improvement of two areas, the internal and external areas of the university, is necessary. In the first case, professors should receive the necessary training to deal with international students. Some professors unwittingly bring their local beliefs into the classroom and evaluate domestic and international students with biased criteria, which not only frustrates international students but also indirectly and imperceptibly instills a sense of superiority in domestic students. In addition to professors, all university employees must be ready to face different cultures and avoid prejudice. This skill is acquired by continuous practice and cannot be achieved solely by a directive. The more critical note is that employees and professors who have had the most interaction with international people and institutions can be more successful, so this should be considered in their recruitment. What completes this circle is the serious follow-up of students' feedback. Again, running a cursory survey eliminates the possibility of identifying unknown nodes that cause problems.

But in order to create a suitable platform outside the university's borders, macro policies are needed. The higher management of the university should leave the previous comfortable conditions and share the problems with other organizations. International students choose a university in a country that welcomes people from different communities. Perhaps they want to stay in that country and work there. In this case, from now on, they will be a community member who will play a role in its overall success. If society is not ready to accept them, they remain like a gear that is not placed correctly among other gears and does not provide the necessary benefit to society. Therefore, the university should have close cooperation and numerous meetings with the relevant organizations such as municipalities and the immigration office, and more importantly, it should convey the identified needs to the Ministry of Education so that they can provide the

necessary conditions to bring about changes in the society from the family level. If we want international students to come and provide them with an affordable education, it shows that we need their strength in the job market. Therefore, it is better to invite them to our families so that they can meet our cultural needs and, after a while, our values become their values, rather than just considering them as the guest workforce to meet immediate needs to survive in society. We must remember that we have invited a human being from another culture with all the complexities of behavior, and we have to plan for all these complexities. This goal is achieved through continuous solidarity and interaction because humans are unlike robots.

Keywords: Multicultural Universities, Inter/External Strategies, Psychological-Educational Dependence

Referent

- I am currently pursuing my second master's degree in Innovation and Product Management (IPM) and had the opportunity to assist Prof. Zehetner in teaching a Mechanics of Materials course. This experience allowed me to explore diverse roles in Austria as both a student and an educator. Other experiences are:
- Lecturer at mechanical engineering faculty for Thermodynamics lectures and contributed as an industrial consultant for student theses
- Turbine and Compressor Engineer and a member of the Research and Development committee in Bushehr province at the National Iranian Oil Company
- Managed my own family business in the Persian Gulf Science and Technology Park
- Owner and editor-in-chief of an industrial monthly magazine, "Industry and Energy"
- In a completely different realm, I organized three national conferences on cancer prevention in Iran, driven by the personal loss of my father to cancer. The first two conferences were scientific but open to the public, aiming to disseminate crucial information about cancer. The third conference took a unique approach, focusing on Storytelling and Cancer, and received spiritual support from the UNESCO office in Iran. All conferences were conducted closely with the Bushehr University of Medical Sciences.
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