

Factors Which Promote A Safe Environment On Students With Specific Learning Difficulties

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Abstract – School is a challenge for every student in general education and students with SpLDs may find difficulties right at the beginning, not knowing how to figure out the load of assignments they get every day in school while they are required to think from multiple perspectives and clearly present their thoughts and arguments.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the factors that influence SpLDs students' academic performance. In order to contribute to this research, a study on each factor was conducted to be used as a valuable data to bring the conclusion.

The paper has found that beside capacity, time, health condition, mental factors, age, learning environment and learning by doing, the most important factor in contributing to students' achievements are the teachers.

Therefore choosing effective teachers is critically important for every school that is trying to improve its performance.

Keywords – Specific learning difficulties (SpLDs), factors, performance

I. INTRODUCTION

Educational institutions all over the world are required to work for the needs of all children who come from different backgrounds, with diverse interests, potential, needs and learning styles. However, there are always children among these who do not achieve as quickly as expected. These children may be labeled lazy and it is perhaps concluded by the respective establishments that it is impossible to teach them.

Kosovo is a country which is in the process of European Integration and continually works toward European development but still is in need to implement various industries, one of those is education.

Regarding inclusive education on Pre-university education, Kosovo government designed the law which aims to provide all children with equal rights to education in accordance with their abilities and at the same time it provides services efficiently, effectively, flexibly and professionally in order to advance all students' educational and social development.

Undoubtedly, the laws regarding inclusive education that are already implemented, are making a historical note YET according to the conducted research appears that inclusive education in Kosovo is gaining a momentum and still is facing numerous difficulties in making efforts toward the realization.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

There are different factors that might have a great affect in learning. On this paper we will describe some of the factors that affects second language acquisition on students with SpLDs which will promote safer environment, such as the desire to achieve personal goals, the need to improve language skills in order to succeed so in the near future to be able to find a job and communicate in English. Learning is a process of acquiring or adding new knowledge, skills and values. It is not an easy task and students feels responsible to achieve if not earlier, the first day they enter school. Therefore, it is important to know and deal with some factors that are known to affect students' learning.

Experts state that these factors play an important role and give a great contribution is second language acquisition depends on the capacity, time, health condition, mental factors, age, learning environment, learning by doing and repetition. These factors give different contribution for success or failure of second language acquisition but they also influence the process of second language acquisition.

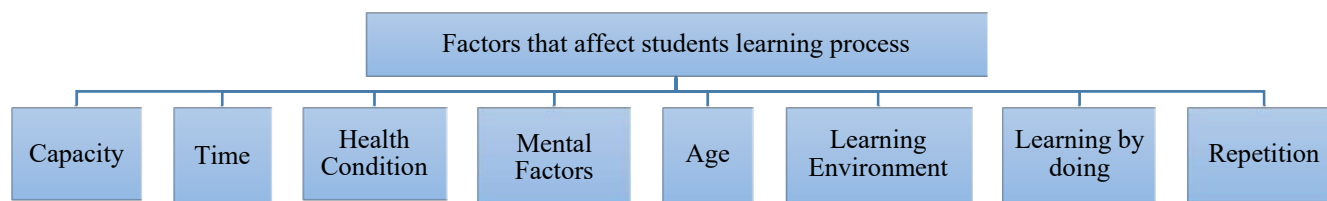


Figure 1. Factors that affect students learning process.

Capacity- In general, it seems that students with greater cognitive abilities make faster progress but some students who have specific learning difficulties struggle with learning due to their cognitive nature. Capacity as a number one factor, plays an important role in learning, but also when it comes to learning a foreign language it determines the person's capability to learn and acquire a second language. As a result, we often see that what has been taught in the class has been forgotten in less than 48 hours. This happens because what has been lectured is beyond their capacity to memorize. Therefore, it is very important to look at the four cognitive skills to improve learning capacity such as:

Attention where students focus on information and tasks and ignore the distractions;

Processing rate encourages to accurately process the required information

Memory can help students recall the information which is essential for that particular lesson

Sequencing motivates students to train themselves to pay attention, absorb information faster to their teachers and remember where they were taught.

Study shows that improving learning capacity promotes success in students with SpLDs.

2.1 Time

Time is another important factor in learning which allows students to accomplish tasks in a shorter period of time if it is being managed well.

Good time management allows students to have more free time, lowers the stress and enjoy school. So time plays a vital role in any activity. When it comes to scheduling the learning time, according to researchers, it is very important to prioritize time and to see when is the best time to study? According to researchers, the best time to accumulate knowledge is reading at night and processing the knowledge in the morning. In the morning, the brain is restful and fresh and as a result learning becomes easy and effective.

2.2. Health condition

Health as the main receptor of everything, is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and the whole organism depends on its surrounding or its environment such as for example public clean environment. Health condition is maintained well with a proper diet with protein, fiber, vitamins and carbohydrates together with regularly exercises, otherwise poor nutrition affects learning adversely like poor memory, stressful school like, nerve disorder etc. Good health leads us to have the opportunity to work, therefore, we need to give a vital importance to our health condition.

2.3 Mental factors

The attitude of students in our class falls under mental factors as they have a huge impact in the mental organization and general conduct of the learner.

Mental health is the fruitful performance which results in productive activities, fulfilling relationships with other individuals, and providing the capacity to adjust to change and adapt the difficulty in learning.

Therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurse practitioners or physicians can help manage mental illness with treatments such as therapy, counseling, or medication if we have students that have mental issues which are also manifested with irregular behavior.

2.4 Age

It is quite understandable that some students learn a new language more quickly than others, because they are successful by virtue of their strong determination, hard work and persistence. Yet, some other students are not very successful in learning and there might be some crucial factors influencing success, which mostly are beyond the control of the learner. It is generally believed that children are better at language acquisition than adults as they are in the best position to acquire a new language. However only the studies conducted in naturalistic learning settings provide the evidence that supports this idea. According to Lenneberg, there is a period where language can be acquired more easily than that at any other time. According to him, this period lasts until adolescence is over and is due to biological development because the brain lacks the ability and adaptation. But at the same time it is worth to mention that with the right motivation, older students can learn but they may struggle to achieve the native-speaker equivalent pronunciation and intonation (Lenneberg, 1967).

Other researchers have also claimed that students who start learning a foreign language as children achieve a more native- like accent than those who start as adolescents or adults and they are better in the acquisition of grammar (Bem, 1968).

2.5 Learning environment

One of the factors that affect the efficiency of our learning are the conditions which learning takes place. The school environment, the school textbooks, the visual kinesthetic and other learning equipment, school supplies and other instructional materials.

At school and at home, the conditions for learning must be favorable and adequate in order to produce the desired outcome. Also, it cannot be denied that the type and quality of instructional materials and equipment play an important part and together with it, anything that distract the learning time must be avoid for instance different noise, overcrowded area, poor sanitation, room temperature too high or too low, all can affect poor learning outcome. Therefore, we need to arrange a comfortable learning condition for our students before labeling them as lazy or expecting supreme outcome from them.

2.6 Learning by doing

Learning by doing has been discovered by an American Philosopher John Dewey. It hands an approach that learning should be done by interactions with their environment in order for the learning to take place. Dewey states that “School must introduce the lesson as it is on the present life – life as real and it has to be vital to the child as something which he carries on in the home, in the neighborhood, or on the playground” (Dewey, 2017).

With this in mind, the teachers have to present real life problems to the children and then guide the students to solve the problem by providing them with a hands-on activity to learn the solution. Teach students to set goals for every study as studying without direction is not effective. This can be applied in every art such as reading or writing even housekeeping or cooking and ironing has to be taught at school in the daily courses and be a present routine as something as the everyday life for the students.

2.6 Repetition

Repetition is considered to be a key learning aid because it helps the brain to work from the conscious part to the subconscious. Through this learning repetition, a skill is revised, practiced and rehearsed over time and gradually students can own them and it will be easier for them to produce anything out of it.

For many students, repetition is highly valued, whether you repeat the vocabulary, sounds or phrases as it is hard to see language learning without this practice as a core part of it.

But, there are in fact two different kinds of repetition, a general repetition and a mindful repetition.

In learning a foreign language, the mindful repetition is very important as through it, students practice how the word is said, how does the shape of the mouth changes in order to produce the sound and make up that word, they learn about words that may sound similar but have different meaning etc. In one way or another we can say that the brain stays tuned toward learning when we apply repetition.

Although it has been proven that students who are uncooperative and with many behavioral problems present an obstacle to general education, yet, the more they get engaged, and they are introduced to mindful repetition and smart learning, they can produce better and they can breeze through school with just some effort and right instruction on when and how to learn.

It is believed and proved that if you develop the habits you will see a major improvement in your academic success. This way learning can become a beautiful experience and everlasting.

So despite what students we have in front of us, according to John Hattie's discovery on Visible Learning research concluded that one of the most important influences of student achievement is how teachers think about each of them and see learning through the eyes of the students, as evaluators, change agents, learning experts, and seekers of feedback. Teachers must have a sparking key on every child to see how the learning function on every students and understand the impact they have in every child (Hattie, 2008).

III. CONCLUSION

Understanding the factors which influence students' engagements in order to have a better academic performance offers a chance for individuals with specific learning difficulties to have more options for their lives. Students with specific learning difficulties from a variety of backgrounds should have the opportunity to maximize their potential and options.

This could be done with the right people on the right path, in this case teachers, which play a significant role in students' academic performance. Therefore, as teachers, if we students who perform low, it must be a concern for all.

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