

## ***How to improve the performance of high school education in the city of Durrës and to cultivate a more critical thinking at the students***

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### **Abstract**

Globalization processes have a major influence in the Albanian reality. They affect to bring a development trend of change in our schools. Students will have an institution that will serve as an intermediary for passing from home environment, into largest society of adults. Improved levels of learning will help students learn the art of learning. Improvement of reality is necessarily linked to the quality and performance of the school where students learn.

Schools can be reformed, quickened and developed constantly, not only through a regulation injunction, but also through the initiative to give students an orientation toward learning. "Learning organization" is more than a method education.

The study will focus on the high school experience of Durrës to identify:

- learning problems of high school students in Durrës;
- increased knowledge on the degree of learning at school and the link to the schools academic performance;
- difficulties in the process of learning how to help a critical way of thinking;
- how to work in high schools of the city of Durrës to create a global community in education;
- how appropriate is the infrastructure of educational institutions in the town of Durres;
- how prepared is the staff of teachers working in these schools.

Key terms: globalization, social change, learning organization, learning methods, performance, global community in education.

### **Introduction**

Globalization is a process that touches and affects every area of life and human activity. The biggest challenge facing globalization today is considered not to avoid or fear of it, but greater involvement and more extensive, identifying trends and effective strategies

In function to benefit from globalization, to find a fair report as among developing of racial tradition and new international standards that are outlining (A.Civici, 2009:192).

By this logic, and from this viewpoint makes no exception the education in general. This seems not only in the increase of the number of students in high schools and universities, but also in increasing the number of schools and students who want to pursue professional education.

If we refer to some official statistics for the city of Durrës it is noticed that these last four years the number of students is increased. The students are seeking to attend high school, particularly high professional school: “Hysen Cela” Hotel and Tourism “Beqir Çela” With branches Auto-mechanics, electro-mechanical, hydraulic and Information Technology and Communication. Registered students for the last four years in school” B.Çela “are as below:

- 2009-2010 registered 240 students;
- 2010-2011 registered 320 students;
- 2011-2012 registered 360 students;
- 2012-2013 registered 450 students.

So As shown the number of students interested in continuing professional education in recent years comes growing it for the reason that the three-year school was made four years and is recognized as high school. Also at this school a considerable number occupy the children come from districts or villages around the city of Durres. Professional High School “Beqir. Cela” for 2012-2013 has 1208 students in total with 783 of them coming from the city, 425 of whom come from villages and districts.

Firstly this influx of students coming requires investment growth and public and private financing in the education sector.

Second- it's required to improve the quality of education, it also means quality in professional education. The quality of professional education can not be understood without modernization and electronic equipment in classrooms without basic material or its many lack in professional practice labs, library and laboratories. Teachers should aim to give students not only knowledge of a particular subject, but try to give the best information found in this area, to show quality resources in it. Third-in all high schools, education public or non-public main goal is to educate citizens who are able to understand and respect with the general requirements of development and democracy, open to new ideas and practices to grow citizens with value.

To achieve this goal in high school as in professional and non-professional along programs different subjects in the curriculum are included as subjects: Citizenship, career education, life skills, art history, entrepreneurship basics etc.

These subjects have intended not only give you the basic concepts of the organization of society, social interaction, understanding of the role, status and duties of the meaning of democracy, civic participation, recognizing the laws and their enforcement necessity. On the other hand they help a citizen training, civic values education, in order to be active citizens being responsible. In any subject intended intellectual orientation of students, which represents one of the “didactic principles meanings” that are ethical, aesthetic, theoretical, pragmatic (Bexhet Arbana, 2005:105). But in practice, what is the question what should be done to these subjects become more effective, their teaching is

not formal but logical?

Professional school where I work there is a wrong mentality to these subjects. They are seen as secondary subjects by students because they think that they have come to school to learn a profession. It is the duty of teachers to pay a more attention working with students and developing these programs.

## **Methodology**

### **Target group**

The target group of this study is 1208 students in professional high school “Beqir Cela” Durrës. These students belong to the category from the year 2009 to 2013 from first till fourth year with these target group has been taken a structured interview based on the improvement of the performance in high-school in Durres city. The interview is structured with opened and closed questions which helped to get good and clear answers. This interview has been processed also with 40 teachers of this school.

## **Instruments**

The instruments of this study are observation in the field also the structured interview that this 1208 students of professional “Beqir Cela” high-school have been part of this study.

This interview had helped to reveal and conclude some important issues:

- learning problems of high school students in Durres;
- increased knowledge on the degree of learning at school and the link to the school's academic performance;
- difficulties in the process of learning how to help a critical way of thinking;
- how to work in high schools of the city of Durres to create a global community in education;
- how appropriate is the infrastructure of educational institutions in the town of Durres;
- how prepared is the staff of teachers working in these schools.

The analysis of the relation between variables had helped in the study of the problems that are part of the learning process in the professional “B.Cela” high-school in Durrës city.

## **Analyse of the database**

The development of a market economy seeks to change the nature of teaching and learning. In this context has changed and the role of teachers. Conceptual analysis of the work of teachers presupposes not only his professional preparation in the subject but also a range of qualities in terms of communication social at school. When they were interviewed about their role at school a study, 100% they determine these roles:

1. The role of the teacher as a teacher.
2. Positive behavior of the teacher in the classroom.
3. The role of the teacher as an administrator.

Duties of teachers in fulfilling role are: defining learning objectives, student preparation diagnosis, planning of its activities, the implementation of educational programs and student outcomes assessment.

Through the role of teacher helps students orient the attitude towards learning and

in turn helps them to solve problems of concern in the life of the school.

Teacher jealous general data documentation students. He plans to teach effectively in accordance with the level of his students (A.Tamo, E.Rapti, TH.Karaj, 2005).

The teacher is not only the main source of knowledge, but the organizer and leader of the learning process.

Today's learning is based on contemporary psychological theories of the formation of knowledge, skills and attitudes, this has brought to the need to establish in the center of this process the student as the main actor to realize the content of the school.

One such organization mode of transmission and acquisition of knowledge, characterized by several features:

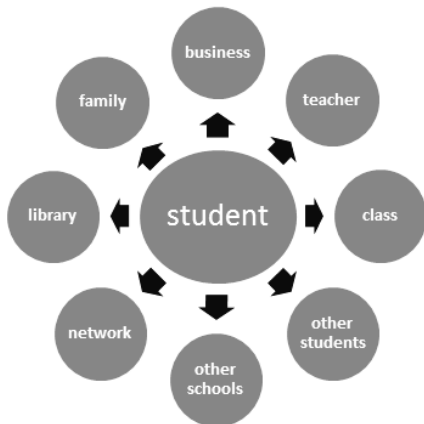
- Today's learning based on competencies and not just knowledge.
- Today's learning is done mainly through the action of the students.
- Today's learning guided by clear objectives, observable and measurable, related to student achievement. (IKT, 2009:116).

These are features that we teachers have access to account in the process of learning, which help us to transform the form and class preparation.

These features will help us to pass by traditional ways of teaching with the teacher at the center of the learning process, to the modern approach that considers the learner-centered on the process. During the teachers interview, they have accepted that the efficiency that has this modern collation with students is completely based on the student-focused methodology. They determine the most important points of this process:

- Students are not passive. They come to class with their frames of expectations.
- Learning is an active process, more dynamic.
- Students build understanding through speaking, listening, writing, reading, and reflecting on the content, ideas, issues and concerns.

This process can be graphically represented as below:



Particular attention is given to our school teacher-student communication and parent-child relationship. The creation of this collaborative partnership between school and family is more than necessary. School is considered part of the community where it belongs and to a better performance of its educational work should contribute to everyone: teachers, parents and students themselves. 80% of students said for the interview that the communication between teachers and students is quite good but 20% think that there exist some problems like these: the use of offense, penalizing and the use of verbal force. The teacher can not only realize the process of learning and education, so one

of the requirements that come before him today related to the fact that how capable is it to activate other forces inside and outside the school and to coordinate its educational work with them. Family considered more powerful partner school, in this sense, we can say that today effective schools are those who know how to build fruitful partnership between

school and family and reach to include especially the parents of children in the education process (Zenel Orhan, 2006:255).

But what is the involvement of parents in education? Parental involvement in education is intended to help parents better understand what it is:

- Parenting (being a parent)-using habits parents to raise and educate their children.
- Educate parents information about issues that may affect the lives of their children.
- Involve parents in the learning process - different ways to support their children in school, and to influence the decision-making process regarding the learning process and the functioning of the school. (A.Tamo, E.Rapti, TH. Karaj, 2005:217).

In effective schools, cooperation is associated with the rate and opportunities for continuous improvement: “It is believed that increasing the quality of teaching is more of a collective enterprise, rather than the individual.” Consequently, teachers are inclined to believe, estimate, share experiences, seek advice and provide help within and outside the school (Michael Fullan, 2003:108).

This new learning environment transforms the role of the teacher in learning management, a large part of learning occurs outside the classroom through the library, meetings with other students, contacts with other schools, through business, with parents, etc.. On the other hand affects the activation of students planning and management of learning, and in making its responsibilities with regard to this. The use of these methods of teaching requires that you have a good connection between teaching, learning and assessment. Through subjects such as citizenship, career education, life skills, and business ethics skills for successful students tend to be at the center of this process. Different forms of learning such as essays, work independently, work on projects, talk with them newspaper articles dealing with social problems, discussion of contemporary information they receive from the internet, and so help to encourage them reasoning and reflective thinking. But I think the more they should be exercised in writing essays for help in writing, reading and reflection of the content. Similarly “method of learning projects” has found a wide use, especially in vocational education (ATP).

What is learning projects?

With word mean forecast project actions will be carried out to realize diçka. Nga scientific standpoint, it is a document that contains key elements necessary to achieve a goal (Alqi Mustafaj, 1998:2). Differential treatment also see students as an important and necessary element in the learning process.

Although regarded as a necessity differential tuition?

We have heterogenous consist in our school.

Students change from one another by: physical characteristics, interests, intellectual abilities, social, provenance experiences, ideals, attitudes, needs, dreams, hopes, etc.. All of these impact on what they learn and how they learn. Therefore to achieve a differentiated instruction is necessary to recognize student strengths and weaknesses, goals, life events and attitudes. To provide information about students can be used several ways, such as: files, meetings, questionnaires, results of tests and measurements sociometrike. It is important

to keep in mind that each student has different learning styles. That is why both students learn not never the same from a certain experience. The fact that students change from each other requires that teachers find teaching strategies and tactics to suit the individual changes. This makes effective teaching. But to achieve truly differentiated teaching requires to follow a different line of action which aims Each student has to develop to the maximum of its potential. Therefore given individualized teaching important needs, aspirations and what specific student activities (A.Tamo, E.Rapti, TH.Karaj, 2005).

Based on the teacher's interview, it's resulted that stimulate productive learning elements and motivations that affect students positively.

According to psychologists motivation is an inner state that is not there, but it is assumed, that starts and keeps stable a certain behavior, to achieve the goal. So when we are motivated, our behavior will be sustained, directed and oriented towards something.

As Orhan Zenel notes, some aspects of orientation to work and motivational skills teachers are:

- Being supportive of students. Learning is a difficult thing, so students need for continued support.
- Care that prevail class a cheerful atmosphere and stored it consistently.
- Encourage student achievement and high self-esteem to think positively about yourself.
- New composition of establishment students in the classroom several times a year.

The use of techniques which give rise to develop interest. such as, we can mention: new projects, life situations, role-play games, etc. audiovisual tools.

- Use positive example to model the motivation of others.
- The use of students' actual motives.
- Providing clear tasks.
- Maintain a high rate of work.
- The use of reinforcement techniques.
- Build trust.

“Educational change depends on what teachers do and think-it is just so simple and at the same time so complicated” (Michael Fullan, 2001:177).

“It is the duty of school adolescents to enable them to acquire knowledge, attitudes, and skills to ensure a successful and healthy life in harmony and peace with others” (ISP, 2004). Teachers need to increase their ability to deal with change because as expressed Fullani will continue to be victimized by endless interference of external forces of change (Michael Fullan, 2001:191). At first teachers through participation in trainings, seminars will help to understand the difference. Participation in them affects us teachers to use innovations, to judge their benefits, according to the information we have. Becoming a good teacher means having more trust and confidence in teaching issues. Teaching is a job that requires a lot of care. Progress of students affected in a very powerful way, by a teacher, which shows high levels of professional characteristics and good teaching skills, which lead to the creation of a good atmosphere in the classroom. According to the Professional high school teacher's interview “B.Cela”Durrës is resulted that more than 85% accept that it's needed to work so much about the profession's reculturing of teaching aiming learning. An important element is the improvement of programs. But as it is developed surrounding infrastructure such as teacher learning communities this is

quite controversial. In our school we pay special attention combination play groups for curriculum development.

Groups that influence curriculum by: (Myra Pollack, David Miller Sadker: 95) are:

- a) Groups of parents and the community.
- b) Students.
- c) Administrators.

One disadvantage observed in professional high schools specifically in city Durres the lack of professional theory texts. Textbooks form curriculum. Teacher pays attention to students' professional orientation. Vocational guidance is a professional activity that helps the individual to choose his profession and to advance the profession, depending on individual characteristics enabling employment (M. Kraja, 2000:226).

One important component is professional orientation offers students assistance, on the basis of physical and intellectual traits, as well as on the opportunities of the market economy. Information systematic and organized in terms of a profession, enables the student to work and concrete tasks.

Specifically the professional school prepares skilled workers, technicians medium branches auto-mechanical, electro-mechanical, hydraulic, and finally we also have branch-information technology and commutation. According to the teachers practice conditions professional are good, there is no shortage of voting materials, however teachers consistently show demand for equipment and modern material base for students to adapt to market more easily. The staff is qualified to successfully teaching process. Are organized numerous competitions between classes and last year took place and a professional exhibition for all vocational schools in Albania where our school won hydraulic trades second place in this professional competition. Practice is closely related to the businesses where our students perform a part of professional practice.

There also plays an important role in activity is extra curricular. These activities serve to recognize the interests, characteristics and abilities of students. Activities outside the educational process was open area of activity for students to demonstrate and affirm skills in electrical works, electronics, mechanical, computer, etc.. Visits and practices with business centers affect the students acquainted with service sectors, technological processes, and people working conditions, difficulties and beauties of service.

Professional practice is an important element of professional orientation. Professional information is not enough, but making and the exercise of this knowledge in professional practice will affect the acquisition of practical skills professionally. Although students have chosen the profession is necessary to pull the master of manufacturing, service and knowledge in certain areas, to feed the material, information and facts affecting the consolidation of established beliefs.

Vocational education is the subject of a complex of measures and areas of sciences through unique educational front, having to do with the realization of this goal, which is consistent with the strategy of the school as a learning institution and education.

Analysis of all these components and efforts to realize them will affect professional education in the city of Durres have a performance that responds to global developments and to respond to the needs of the labor market.

## **Conclusions**

The globalization processed have a huge influence in Albanian reality. These

processes bring also big changes in the field of education. In these conditions the improvement of teaching performance will help to get in the better quality in the field of professional education.

### **The analization of the problems**

The evidention of the problems in these profesional school “Beqir Cela” Durrës will help improving the quality at the education in these city. In these specific cases the qualification of the employes in the specific field of auto-mecanic, electro-mecanic, hydraulic and informatics is necessary for the Albanian reality. These professional education requires a unique front of education related with these problems management based on:

- Orientation of these texts according to these programs
- The quality of teaching

The realization of these components will effect the professional education Durres city to have a good performance that will be a renspose to global developments.

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