

Original paper

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Forms of educational support to gifted students' potential in class teaching practices

Extended summary

The question that increasingly preoccupies the attention of experts is how to organize the school conditions for the maximum development of potential abilities of gifted students.

It is clear that gifted students can and want to achieve more than regular school program, adjusted to average students, provides them and it is up to teachers and schools to ensure the conditions in which their exceptional abilities can be developed. In order for gifted students to develop their capacities, stimulating and motivating environment is needed. Keeping in mind importance of adequate stimulation of gifted students' potential, this paper discusses the forms and ways of supporting them to achieve that potential. In this paper we have shown the results of research that was aiming to establish dominant forms of educational support to gifted students' potential in class teaching practices. The research was conducted in eight schools in area of Tuzla Canton, on the sample of 101 teachers. Instruments used were Questionnaire for teachers, designed for needs of this research. Content of claims in this questionnaire were based on consulting relevant literature in area of encouraging students' potential. For analysis of data retained by the instrument, descriptive statistics were used (relative frequencies calculations, arithmetic mean, standard deviation) and non-parametric technique of calculation hi-square test. Data was processed in software SPSS 20. Descriptive statistics and hi-square test calculations showed that dominant forms of encouraging students' potential in class teaching practices were extracurricular activities and additional classes. Research has also shown high

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degree of individualized approach to each student, group projects and enrichment of the curriculum. According to the results of our research, that show a wide range of forms of educational support to potential of gifted students, we can be pleased with enthusiasm and efforts of surveyed teachers. Results acquired indicate that question of educational work with gifted students is necessary part of the strategy to encourage their growth, and can serve as additional impulse for activities in the field of systematic care of gifted students. However, nourishing and encouraging gifted students is very important subject, not only for teachers and schools but also for the society in general. Therefore, it is necessary to involve creators of educational politics, experts, public and parents of gifted students, in order to efficiently deal with this topic. It is clear that progress in this area is only possible with support and cooperation of mentioned subjects.

Key words: giftedness, gifted students, pedagogical-educational support, primary school teaching.

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