

EDURUR - A SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME FOR DISADVANTAGED GROUPS AS METHOD TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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Abstract

Violence in school in the rural area is a problem of the society, not very well popularised, but it puts its mark on the education of the students and on the quality of the educational process. The main idea of the EDURUR programme is to propose a solution for this economic problem, given the fact that all society has a benefit from a well done educative process, conducting to better trained students.

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JEL classifications: A21, I29, O31.

The current context

The idea of the project started by the initiative of the authors and a team of teachers and pupils from "Agricol" Mărăcineni High School, Argeș county, Romania after researching the delicate subject of violence in school, in the rural area, under all its forms: verbal or physical; either in the relationship between two students, either in the relationship between a student and its teacher, or either in the relationship between a student and its parents.

This problem puts its mark on the educational process, leaving behind pupils that eventually abandon their educational program, abandoning their family - in the worse case scenario, either they are not very well integrated in social life, in the class, in the group of friends, they are introverts persons, their results on their marks are very poor, and they dislike coming to school rejecting every possibility of involving in projects, team working etc. thus resulting in a drop of continuing the studies in an academic environment. This problem affects both the high-schools and both the universities, reducing the number of people with higher education in the labor market.

Considering the above current content, we decided to make a research on a small part of the current national problem. In a rural high school (the name of the high school will remain anonym) from Argeș county, in a community with 8201 members from witch 360 are attending courses at the local high school, were identified 17 cases of violence in school and one case of death from causes involving fights between pupils; this meant a percentage of 5% from the pupils attending the high school - this situation was before our research took place.

After the research took place, there where discovered another 8 cases of violence and one case of suicide in the off school period, leading to an increase of the cases of violence from 5% to 7,22%, conducting to the necessity of the current program.

The research involved the collaboration and implication of the high school teaching staff, the proactive implication of pupils, and the

collaboration between the high school and the local community. There were applied several surveys, individual meetings, group meetings.

Description of the program

This is a program of social inclusion for disadvantaged groups consisting of victims of violence in rural school until the age of nineteen years, the target group will enter into a national database and will participate in a national program „EDURUR” counseling.

The sessions will include information, communications, training, education, counseling sessions, meaning a directly human touch in first phase.

In the second phase the program, everything will be done mostly online, the target group integration and school will be monitored by a team of school psychologists and several members of the school's disciplinary committee who know the problems of school violence.

The purpose of the program:

- 1 Identifying the target group, and the problems of the group;
- 2 Resolving the problems by attending the program, counseling the students, etc.
- 3 Create a national database of members joined the target group - victims of violence in rural school until 19 years of age;
- 4 Active involvement of members in social programs for education, training, training, etc.;
- 5 Reintegration into a high percentage in social class, family and community.

Target market and the strategy used to reach the target market

The services provided in our program are targeting the disadvantaged groups consisting of victims of violence in rural school until the age of nineteen. Currently there is no national database of such a group, or national organizations to provide such counseling, which is necessary to establish such a program.

Through this program, Romania will be able to directly confront this issue and become aware of violence in school, propose solutions to these problems, form relevant statistics on the number of people abused in school, and by the nature of distance education, students of target group members in the program may apply without restraint from third parties.

The future capacity of the program, is expanding in several countries including cooperation between countries, establishment, visits, etc., makes it possible to implement such a project at a global scale meaning a global network.

Social issue, solution and benefits

Violence in school is not fully acknowledged by the society, but is a national problem that leaves its mark on the educational process. It is found mainly in rural areas where the rule applies "Beating is torn from heaven!" both in relation to teacher - pupil, as well as between students in different forms of expression: verbal, physical.

As a solution EDURUR seeks protection of such students through guidance and counseling, specialized training, etc., their goal is reintegration into social life and reducing drop out due to violence in schools; but also creating a national database. The next step is to develop the program globally.

The platform will be created by a private entity and managed by a national team coordinator. The human resource involves one team of specialists in each county, coordinated nationally by a well trained team. The access from outside will be restricted to personal data: name, address, etc. and advertising will be done only numerically, ensuring the safety of the person and the confidential character of the program.

As a financing solution we propose to apply for a grant application for European funds, seeking national and international sponsors, the program "Donate 2% of tax program" - which is well used in Romania. We estimate the cost of the project below 100.000 €.

In the present context of the country's, leadership did not acknowledge the magnitude of this phenomenon, a second goal is popularizing the extent of the matter, which will force the society to directly involve all the members - by human resource or indirectly - by material, financial or informational, to solve the problem.

Following benefits from the project will be appreciated not only at school level, which is the directly beneficiary by reducing the level of violence in school, but also indirect beneficiaries (whole society), because combat violence in schools lead to better educational outcomes, reputation in high school, graduates better trained, etc., thus coinciding with the economic and social development objective of the country.

The innovative character of the program

The innovative character of the project is expressed by the absence of such a project implemented at national level, various organizations working in this area don't have national coverage. Furthermore, the idea implemented globally complements the innovative nature of the project, other participating countries can contribute directly with their know-how.

Awareness of the problem at national level will determine the members of society to react to these problems, to get involved either through material contributions, financial, informational, or human - meaning direct involvement.

The innovative character is given by:

- 1 The adaptation of the program according to every student;
- 2 Establishing a national database of disadvantaged students, victim of school violence;
- 3 The development of global partnerships, working visits, workshops, etc., hence resulting the global impact of the project;
- 4 The integration of students into the community, through mentoring, training sessions, etc.
- 5 The objective character - the project implies confidentiality of data.

Project feasibility

This project is realistic, and the possibility of its implementation at a good cost makes the project feasible. The project is consistent with the objectives SMART:

- 1 *Simple* - identifying a social issue, that of violence in school;
- 2 *Measurable* - quantify in the national database, followed by the global number of participating members, statistics, etc.;
- 3 *Accessible* - both nationally and globally;
- 4 *Realistic* - is has a real possibility of implementation;

5 *Suitable Temporary* - the implementation is necessary in present, in the current context.

The success factors are:

- 1 Creativity and innovativeness - an intelligent presentation of the problem can lead to national awareness of the problem;
- 2 Strong network - via the Internet;
- 3 Seriously - of the people involved;

The major risk factor is lack of money for the project.

Global implementation

The possibility of global project implementation requires the existence of at least two partner countries, to expand the project throughout the worldwide. Extending benefits of such a project are enormous, each member country could contribute with their know-how to the problem, proposing varied solutions for the problem.

As a primary consequence of development projects globally are working visits, workshops, study, international competition, global collaboration, integration in society not only students but also including Global National.

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CV

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Career: My career is at the beginning, in present I work in two places: I am an university assistant since october 2008 and a high-school teacher of economics at „Agricol” High-School from Mărăcineni.

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