I. Citation Info


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Title of Study

Imparting education in human values to primary education students and testing it by implementing a Moral Maturity Scale

Source of Study

*Studia Psychologica*

Keywords

Education Human Values, Moral Maturity Scale, primary education student, orphanage children, value education

Abstract
The general objective of this study is to expose fourth and fifth grade primary education students to the Educational Human Values (EHV) Program, and to test its effectiveness by implementing a Moral Maturity Scale. The EHV Program was developed by June Auton in England and consisted of five core values called Truth, Love, Peace, Right Conduct, and Non-Violence, and 44 sub-values. This study is a quasi-experimental one. A model involving a pre-test-post-test control group has been implemented in the study. The target group of our study consisted of 36 fourth and fifth grade primary education orphan students (aged 10-11 yrs). The result has verified that the EHV Program would improve the moral maturity levels of the students who participated.

II. Study Description

Intervention Description

• Name of the program/study condition: Educational Human Values (EHV) Program
• Main purpose or general description:
  o “The EHV Program was developed by June Auton in England and consisted of five core values called Truth, Love, Peace, Right Conduct, and Non Violence, and forty-four sub-values” (p. 43).
  Implementation of 120-minute sessions for 36 weeks.
• Theoretical background: N/A
• Components:
  o Contents: five core values (Truth, Love, Peace, Right Conduct, and Non-Violence) and 44 sub-values.
• Previous studies / evaluations: N/A

Implementation Elements

Content elements:

• Human values

Pedagogical strategies:

• Use of stories, songs, maxims, poems, and proverbs from Turkish culture.

Research Question(s) / Hypotheses

Hypotheses:

1. The EHV Program shall improve the moral maturity levels of students who participate in it.
2. There shall be no improvement in moral maturity levels of students who do not participate in the EHV Program.
3. The moral maturity levels of students participating in the EHV Program shall not change according to gender.

4. The moral maturity levels of students exposed to the EHV Program shall not be affected by the respective levels of their grades.

Research Methods

Sample Description:

- Total N final sample: n = 36
  - Control group: 18
  - Intervention group: 18
- Composition:
  - Gender: 6 females and 12 males in experimental group (gender of control group is not specified).
  - Location: Istanbul.
  - Ages: 4th and 5th graders (10-11 years old).
  - Ethnicity: N/A
  - SES: N/A
  - Special education: N/A
  - Family composition: orphan students.
  - Other: students were part of the Society for the Welfare of Parentless Children, Küçükyali, Istanbul.

Measures:

- Moral Maturity Scale (MMS) (designed by the authors):
  - Assesses students’ Moral Maturity Levels.

Procedures:

- Design:
  - Quasi-experimental
- Times of assessment:
  - Pre-test: October 1998 (before the intervention)
  - Post-test: March 1999 (after the intervention)
- Assignment method:
  - Level of assignment: students.
  - Students who volunteered to participate were randomly assigned to intervention or control group.

Research results

Baseline differences:
• No statistically significant differences were found between the intervention and the control group at the pre-test.

Program effects:

• Hypothesis 1: Wilcoxon-Matched-Pairs-Ranks Test showed a significant increase in the Moral Maturity Levels of the experimental group.
• Hypothesis 2: Wilcoxon-Matched-Pairs-Ranks Test showed a significant decrease in the Moral Maturity Levels of the control group.
• Hypothesis 3: Mann-Whitney U-Test showed non-significant differences between Moral Maturity Levels of females and males within the experimental group on the post-test measure.
• Hypothesis 4: Mann-Whitney U-Test showed non-significant differences between Moral Maturity Levels of 4th and 5th graders within the experimental group on the post-test measure.

Summary of results

“The result has verified that the EHV Program would improve the moral maturity levels of the students who participated” (p. 43).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOME VARIABLE</th>
<th>DIRECTION (positive, neutral, iatrogenic)</th>
<th>SIGNIFICANCE</th>
<th>P VALUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Moral Maturity Levels</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Significant</td>
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Study limitations

• N/A

Outcome Variables Taxonomy

• Moral Maturity Levels

Program Association

Educational Human Values (EHV) Program