The Impact of the Specialized Experiential Learning on Empathy, Self-Efficacy, and Retention Factors in Business and Art Education

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Abstract

The research and specialized curriculum are designed to cultivate empathy and self-efficacy among students in business and art education, aiming to enhance retention factors. This study investigates the relationship between empathy and self-efficacy and their influence on student retention over a six-year period. Using a variety of statistical techniques, including descriptive statistics, paired t-tests, ANOVA, regression analysis, Pearson correlation, growth curve modeling, Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), and Linear Mixed-Effects Modeling (LMM), the research examines data from multiple cohorts participating in the specialized project. The findings reveal significant improvements in both empathy and self-efficacy, strongly correlated with increased retention rates and academic performance. Despite a temporary decline in retention in 2020, the overall trend shows a substantial upward trajectory through 2023. This study underscores the importance of developing emotional and psychological competencies to bolster program retention, suggesting that integrating project methodologies can lead to improved educational outcomes across diverse disciplines. Additionally, the integration of AI technologies in 2023 opens new avenues for personalized learning and further research on the long-term impacts.

Keywords: emotional intelligence; pedagogical innovation; student engagement; teaching methodologies; educational outcomes