DISAFFECTION VS PLEASURE TO LEARN AT SCHOOL. PHD RESEARCH DESIGN

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Though school learning process is a key period for the students’ education, pupil difficulties have direct consequences towards their discipline approach. To be able to understand students perception is not only important to consider the cognitive aspect but also the emotional one, which plays a key role in the learning process. This research focuses on finding out if and how the emotional approach differs among students in the main school subjects, considering their academic level gap over the time. The aims are to understand primary and secondary students’ affective dimension towards school subjects; to identify students’ and teachers’ perceptions regarding to the possible causes of disaffection process; to identify possible solutions to improve the students’ emotional approach towards knowledge.

This study involves a sample of primary and secondary schools (Italian, German and Ladin groups) in the province of Bolzano (Italy) in the 2013-2015 academic years. In these schools will be involved students of these following classes: III and V in the primary schools; I, II and III in the lower secondary schools; I and IV in the upper secondary schools.

The survey will be conducted via questionnaires and focus groups. This study involves also all primary and secondary school teachers of sampled schools. The main expected results on this research are to detect a gradual and increasing students’ ousting towards all school subjects; to determine a direct connection among students’ emotional difficulties and teachers’ didactic action; to identify secondary school teachers’ education as the main responsible point of the students’ disaffection towards school subjects. It all together let us to create a starting point to begin concrete actions aimed to the improvements of the investigated situation. This problem has a direct impact on the scholastic dropouts and life-long learning issues; these aspects focus on the individual need to defend and to uphold his education.