

## **Editorial Spring 2021: JELPS EYFOR Special Issue**

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In these days unprecedented COVID-19 days, school leaders and educators are making tremendous efforts to prevent education from being interrupted. While many educators are trying to focus on improving social and emotional learning of students, other are trying explore strategies to improve the quality of virtual education. There is a state and nation-wide effort to create safe and healthy school environment for all students and educators. This special issue of the Journal of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (JELPS) is designed with the partnership with EYFOR (International Educational Management Forum).

Since academic competences are essential for admission to good educational institutions and competitive markets, students face increasing pressures to meet academic expectations. This first study aims to examine university students' state test anxieties based on various variables. The second study entitled "The Effect of School Culture on Teachers' Organizational Commitment" focused on revealing the relations between the school culture and the teachers' organizational commitment in terms of selected demographic variables. Correlational survey and descriptive models were used in the study. The findings indicate that the dimensions of success, duty and bureaucracy culture are important predictors of affective commitment, bureaucratic culture dimension is also essential predictor of continuance and successful culture.

In addition to medical treatment, games, sports or exercises can be used to reduce the symptoms of children diagnosed with ADHD. In the third study, the effect of orienteering on the development of attention, metacognitive awareness, and perceptions of problem-solving skills of primary school students diagnosed with ADHD was examined. In the study, orienteering was done on students with ADHD aged 9-10. As a result of the study, it has been observed that orienteering has positive effects on developing of primary school students with ADHD attention, metacognitive awareness, and the perceptions of problem-solving skills.

In the fourth study, an action research is conducted that examines whether the designed intervention program based on STEM can be beneficial for 5-6 years old children to learn more about the specific features of the magnets. The program consists of several activities including reading story, playing a tablet game and designing a product from different shaped magnets. Findings underline the importance of STEM activities, as an interdisciplined approach, can foster the children to engage more actively in learning, inquiring, designing and reflecting

processes. Moreover, this study confirms that preschool children are capable of developing conceptual understanding in ‘magnetism’

Education is service sector. In the information age, the service sector is affected by factors such as global competition, new service delivery techniques and information technologies. The success of educational institutions depends on effective management practices that includes human capital and cultural structure of the organization. Therefore, the fifth study was designed to determine the level of relationship between the form of cultururation in educational institutions and the management practices in these institutions. Particularly, exploratory factor analysis was used to determine the relationships between organizational culture types and management practices and correlation analysis was performed to determine the association between variables.

In this special issue, the sixth study uses the phenomenological method to investigate the pre-service English teachers’ views about values education in English as a foreign language (EFL) curriculum. Qualitative data obtained through survey and interviews was subjected to descriptive analysis. The findings revealed that pre-service teachers held positive opinions about incorporating values into the EFL curriculum. They considered values such as friendship, respect, kindness, love, justice and honesty important for primary children to acquire. They also expressed willingness to facilitate children’s acquisition of such values in their future profession.

Due to the COVID-19, many schools were required to provide virtual learning opportunities for their students. In the final study, the efficiency of Asynchronous and Synchronous Learning Models in Geography Course in two different universities were researched. In this study, qualitative research model was used to explore the effectiveness of asynchronous and synchronous learning models. Particularly, in geography courses, several educational models and techniques such as cooperative learning, brain-based learning, laboratory studies, drama method, material usage, concept analysis, gestalt theory, programmed teaching, creative writing, geographical inquiry skill, concept map and concept network were found to be more effective than others.