

A Cross-Cultural Perspective about the Implementation and Adaptation Process of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model

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Abstract

Gifted education and talent development are considered today as key elements for developing human capital and increasing competitiveness within education and the economy. Within this framework, a growing number of countries have begun to invest large amounts of resources to discover and nurture their most able students. As boundaries and differences between cultures become less pronounced in a global world, educational models to guide gifted education and talent development are also becoming more widely applicable. In this context, the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) stands as a flexible model that enables schools in different regions of the world to provide individuals with opportunities to identify their potentials and to help them reach their highest levels of competence. This paper provides an overview of the SEM and the broad range of regions in which the model is currently implemented, as well as an examination of the reasons for its widespread acceptance among educators around the world. In addition, this paper includes an interview with Dr Joseph Renzulli, inventor of SEM, in which several issues related to the cultural adaptation of the SEM are discussed. Finally, the paper presents an introduction to the SEM International Network, a newly developed project created to connect SEM users around the world and to facilitate the sharing and accessing of ideas and resources for talent development.

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