

Review Article

The Role of Extracurricular Activities in Primary Education

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Article History

Received: 08.04.2023

Accepted: 14.05.2023

Published: 20.05.2023

Journal homepage:

<https://www.easpublisher.com>

Quick Response Code



Abstract: A scientific article explores the role of extracurricular activities in primary education, highlighting their potential benefits for children's physical, social, creative, and academic development. The article emphasizes that extracurricular activities provide a well-rounded education for children and can help them develop important skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership. The article also notes that participation in extracurricular activities can promote academic success by improving time-management and organizational skills, fostering responsibility, and enhancing overall attitudes towards learning. Based on these findings, the article recommends that schools should encourage and support extracurricular activities to promote the holistic development of children in primary education.

Keywords: Extracurricular activities; primary education; role; skills.

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INTRODCUTION

Extracurricular activities play a crucial role in the overall development of children in primary education. While academic studies are important, extracurricular activities provide students with a well-rounded education that helps them develop socially, emotionally, and physically. Here are some ways in which extracurricular activities can benefit primary school students: + Encourages physical activity: Extracurricular activities such as sports, dance, and fitness programs encourage children to engage in physical activity, promoting their physical health and well-being. + Develops social skills: Extracurricular activities offer students an opportunity to interact with peers outside of the classroom environment, promoting socialization and the development of social skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership. + Boosts creativity: Extracurricular activities such as art, music, and drama allow children to express themselves creatively, fostering their imagination and enhancing their artistic abilities. + Provides a sense of belonging: Extracurricular activities can provide children with a sense of belonging and help build their self-esteem by offering them opportunities to excel in areas where they have a particular interest or talent. + Promotes academic success: Students who participate in extracurricular activities often perform better academically because they learn important time-management and organizational skills, develop a sense of responsibility, and have a better overall attitude towards learning.

LITERATURA REVIEW

Extracurricular activities are understood as activities organized outside of regular school hours, often with a more voluntary nature than mandatory. Extracurricular activities are a continuation of classroom teaching and learning, a way to connect theory with practice, creating a unity between students' knowledge and actions. It is the organization of education through practical activities of students in science and technology, public service, social activities, humanitarian activities, cultural and artistic activities, aesthetics, physical education, sports, entertainment, and so on. Extracurricular activities play a very important role in supplementing students with life skills and experiences, helping them become well-rounded individuals. In addition, extracurricular activities also reinforce the knowledge that students have learned in the classroom, thereby continuing to develop their abilities: self-improvement, adaptability, communication skills, social and political activity, management skills, evaluation of results, and so on. On the other hand, extracurricular activities help students to form a correct attitude towards the problems of life, to take responsibility for their behavior, to struggle against incorrect behavior, and to appreciate the beauty of life. In broader terms, extracurricular activities help students to express themselves, assert their position, and determine their development direction in the future. Nowadays, in study abroad applications, especially in scholarship applications from schools, businesses, and non-profit international organizations, there is always a

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section that requires candidates to present their extracurricular activities. For example, in addition to important knowledge, students need to know how to work in groups, as discussed in extracurricular activities. This is the organization of education through practical activities of students in science and technology, community service, social activities, humanitarian activities, cultural and artistic activities, aesthetic, physical education, sports, entertainment, etc. Extracurricular activities play an extremely important role in supplementing skills and life experiences for students, helping them become a well-rounded person. In addition, extracurricular activities also consolidate the knowledge that students have learned in class, so as to continue to develop their abilities: self-improvement, adaptability, communication skills, political and social skills, management, evaluation of results, etc. On the other hand, extracurricular activities also help students develop the correct attitude towards the problems of life, take responsibility for their behavior, struggle against wrong expressions, appreciate and evaluate the beauty of life. In a broader sense, extracurricular activities help students express themselves, assert their position and determine their development direction in the future. Nowadays, in the application package for studying abroad, especially for applying for scholarships from universities, business organizations, international non-profit organizations, etc., there is always a requirement for candidates to present their extracurricular activities. For example, besides important knowledge, students need to know how to work in a team.

Experience activities in private primary schools

Experience activities are educational activities that are planned, designed, and guided by educators to provide opportunities for students to access practical experiences, to feel positive emotions, to explore existing experiences, and to mobilize and synthesize knowledge and skills from various subjects to accomplish tasks or solve real-life problems that are appropriate for their age in school, family, and society. Through these activities, students can transform their experiences into new knowledge, understanding, and skills, contributing to the development of their creative potential and adaptability to life, environment, and future careers.

Experience activities contribute to the formation and development of students' essential qualities, general competencies, and specific skills. The content of the activities is based on the individual relationships that students have with themselves, society, nature, and professions. The content of experience activities is divided into two stages: basic education and vocational orientation education. At the primary school level, experience activities focus on self-discovery, self-improvement, developing relationships with friends, teachers, and family members. Social activities and exploring some

professions that are close to students are also organized and implemented with content and appropriate forms for their age.

The general goal of experiential activities is to help students develop adaptive life skills, design and organize activities, career guidance skills, as well as contribute to the development of essential qualities and general skills stipulated in the comprehensive program. In addition, experiential activities also help students discover themselves and the world around them, develop a rich spiritual life, appreciate the beauty of nature and human kindness, have proper living values and behaviors, and cultivate love for the homeland, the nation's roots and identity to contribute to preserving and developing the good values of Vietnamese people in a globalized world.

At the elementary school level, the main goal of experiential activities is to develop positive habits in daily life, such as working hard, fulfilling responsibilities as students at home, at school, and in the community, self-evaluation and self-adjustment, developing cultural communication and behavior, fostering group cooperation, and problem-solving skills. Experiential activities in elementary school need to ensure the following contents:

- + First, the role and position of experiential activities in elementary school are "compulsory educational activities" like any other subject in elementary school.
- + Second, the pathway for students to develop qualities and skills is "based on the integration of knowledge and skills from many different educational fields."
- + Third, the basic goal of experiential activities is "to experience practical life in school, family, society, participate in career orientation activities and community service."
- + Fourth, the organization of experiential activities for students is based on the principle that teaching and learning should be done through activities, and students should experience what they have learned in school.

The content of the primary school experiential activities program

The basic content of the Experiential Activities program revolves around the relationships between students and themselves; between students and others, the community, and society; between students and the environment; and between students and their future careers. This content is implemented through four main activity groups: Personal development activities; Labor activities; Social and community service activities.

The content of the Experiential Activities program is divided into two stages. a) Basic education stage: developing character, habits, life skills, through collective activities, clubs, participation in learning

projects, social activities, volunteer work, labor activities, etc. At the primary school level, the focus is more on personal development activities, life skills, relationship skills with friends, teachers, and family members. In addition, labor activities, social activities, and introduction to some professions that are familiar to students are also organized and implemented. b) The next stage is vocational orientation education: At this stage, each student begins to determine their abilities, strengths, and prepares some basic skills of future workers and responsible citizens.

The main objective of experiential activities in primary school is to help students develop holistically in terms of culture, mentality, psychology, and physicality. It helps students explore and understand the world around them, hone life skills, and develop necessary social skills. Specifically:

Explore the world around: Experiential activities help students learn about places, cultures, history, science, and other subjects. This helps students understand more about the world around them and encourages them to seek new knowledge.

Hone life skills: Experiential activities help students develop life skills such as creative thinking, time and financial management, problem-solving, teamwork, and effective communication.

Develop social skills: Experiential activities help students develop social skills such as listening, respect, sharing, and cooperation. This helps students become mature individuals and adapt well to society.

Help students excel in their studies: Experiential activities can help students see their learning goals and they can easily find connections between subjects, making their learning more effective.

Therefore, experiential learning activities in elementary school are of great importance in helping students develop holistically and become successful and accomplished individuals in life.

Experiential activities can be a valuable tool for elementary school students to learn and engage in various subjects.

Clear learning objectives: Clearly define the learning objectives of the experiential activity. Ensure that the activity aligns with the curriculum and age-appropriate, achievable goals for students. This will help students understand the purpose of the activity and allow them to relate it to their own learning.

Plan ahead: Organizing an experiential activity requires planning and preparation. It is necessary to plan ahead, including necessary materials, safety measures, and logistical arrangements. Ensure that there are sufficient resources and equipment available for the activity.

Make it fun: Incorporate fun elements into the experiential activity to attract student participation and engagement. Use interactive and hands-on methods, such as games, role-playing, and simulations. This will help students learn while having fun and make the experience enjoyable.

Encourage reflection: Reflection is an important component of learning through experiential activities. Encourage students to think about their experiences and what they have learned. Ask them to share their thoughts, feelings, and insights about the activity. This will help them absorb the learning and develop critical thinking skills.

Feedback and evaluation: Feedback is necessary to improve the quality of experiential activities. Gather feedback from students and teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of the activity. Use this feedback to improve future activities.

- Results of a survey of students at three elementary schools on various topics
- Do you want to participate in other experiential activities? If so, what kind of activity do you want to participate in?

Sex		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	185	46.7	46.7	46.7
	Male	211	53.3	53.3	100.0
	Total	396	100.0	100.0	
Schools		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 elementary School	132	33.3	33.3	33.3
	2 elementary school	132	33.3	33.3	66.7
	3 elementary school	132	33.3	33.3	100.0
	Total	396	100.0	100.0	
Grades		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Grade 4	198	50.0	50.0	50.0

	Grade 5	198	50.0	50.0	100.0
	Total	396	100.0	100.0	
Participate in experiential activities.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	396	100.0	100.0	100.0
Participating in experiential activities helps me explore and learn about the world around me.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Normal	84	21.2	21.2	21.2
	Agree	133	33.6	33.6	54.8
	Very agree	179	45.2	45.2	100.0
	Total	396	100.0	100.0	
Experiential activities help me think more creatively.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Normal	130	32.8	32.8	32.8
	Agree	160	40.4	40.4	73.2
	Very agree	106	26.8	26.8	100.0
	Total	396	100.0	100.0	

CONCLUDE

Extracurricular activities play an essential role in primary education as they provide students with opportunities to explore their interests and talents outside of the traditional classroom setting. Through participation in extracurricular activities, children can develop social skills, teamwork, leadership, and time management abilities, which can be crucial to their future success. Moreover, extracurricular activities also enhance physical health and mental well-being by promoting exercise, stress relief, and self-expression. In conclusion, extracurricular activities are a valuable component of primary education that should be encouraged and supported by schools, parents, and communities. By providing diverse and engaging opportunities for children to learn and grow, extracurricular activities can enrich their education, foster their creativity and curiosity, and help them become well-rounded individuals.

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Cite This Article: Pham Quang Tiep (2023). The Role of Extracurricular Activities in Primary Education. *East African Scholars J Edu Humanit Lit*, 6(5), 215-218.