

An Action Research of Drama in Education Curriculum Design — The Experience of Concordia School of Special Education

Abstract

This research explores the incorporation of Drama-in-Education as part of the formal curriculum for the school for special education and looks into the influences on the students and the practice of such methods. The main purposes of the study include : (1)To evaluate the effectiveness of “Drama-in-Education” in special education ; (2)To improve the structure of official Drama-in-Education syllabus ; (3)To develop the basic framework of “Drama-in-Education” through the action research. (4)To provide guidelines for local educators when executing Drama-in-Education.

The research is to systematically illustrate the framework and the methods of the Drama-in-Education . Firstly, to cultivate the artistic potential of students in special education. Secondly, to learn through non-traditional teaching methods strategies. In learning process of the students, they find ways to release and express their feelings through observation and imagination. They understand the relationship between people and the society when they gain affirmation and confidence from the performance of drama.

The following is the results of the research:

1. To define what Drama-in-Education is and how the curriculum should be used in the cultivation and meaning for special education school. a) The enhancement of the students’ artistic potential. b) To develop the competency of teachers.

2. To analyze the problems and the design of the course. a) The educational department encourages arts education, but the curriculum guidance is not clearly stated. b) There is inadequate supply of local textbooks and resources. And also the promotion of arts performance is not enough.
3. To look for the adaptation of the course and to encourage the students who have mentally problems to participate the course. a) Many problems are raised at the beginning of the Drama Course, b) Learning and instructional matters should be developed in Drama-in-Education
4. To ensure the feasibility of the integration of drama into the regular curriculum a) Drama as a performing art, and b) As a means of curriculum integration.
5. Based on the direction and the content of the course, students can explore more and enjoy life-wide learning under the proposed curriculum.

Lastly, this study is to describe a basic foundation of drama practice, research and curriculum development in Macau education system.

Keywords : Special Education, Drama-in-Education, Creative Drama, Conventions, School-based Curriculum, Teacher Action Research