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Oral Presentation

Gifted Identification in the 21st Century

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Abstract

Traditionally gifted identification tries to identify persons with specific traits which presumably indicate extraordinary learning potentials. A modern alternative is to try to identify the persons with the most promising learning pathways. Thus, the modern approach of identification is not only directed at the presence, but it is rather future-oriented and its focus is the dynamics of the process of successful talent development. In this contribution talent development is treated under the aspects of adaptation and regulation. First, several identifying characteristics of talent development are given. It is proposed that it can best be interpreted as a process of adaptation to specific learning environments. Its result is functional action repertoires in talent domains. Two types of regulation are distinguished: homeostatic and Homeorhesis. This is followed by replies to two central questions: Who regulates and what is regulated during talent development? Here endogenous and exogenous resources are discussed and the concepts 'educational capital' and 'learning capital' are introduced. To conclude, a thorough re-orientation of gifted identification is advocated. In support of the regulation processes necessary during the development of excellence, attention to four principles is recommended: 1) The principle of the co-evolution of the components of the actiotope, 2) the principle of dynamic-interactive regulation, 3) the principle of capital orientation, and 4) the constructivist, or learning pathway principle.

Keywords: Talent, Dynamic-Interactive Regulation, Constructivist.

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