Digitalization is promoted as a tool for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

In the rapidly evolving landscape of 21st-century education, many new factors have come into play that have become very important to consider for the well-being of the new generation of students. One of them is the growing recognition of the critical role that social and emotional factors play in student development and learning outcomes. As the importance of socio-emotional learning (SEL) and competencies (SEC) in education grows, understanding their implementation and impact across diverse contexts is crucial for fostering holistic student development. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is crucial for children's development of social and emotional skills, including relationships, communication, decision-making, self-esteem, and behaviour. It can help reduce the attainment gap between slow learners and their peers. In recent years, school psychology has increasingly recognized the importance of social-emotional health in achieving positive outcomes for youth. This study aims to critically examine the research trends in SEL and SEC by analyzing 50 peer-reviewed studies published between 2000 and 2025. To help educators and school psychologists assess and promote students' social-emotional health, it is important to have a comprehensive understanding of this topic. This special section focuses on the significance of social-emotional skills and previous research on social-emotional learning (SEL) and their contributions and remaining questions. This paper discusses the theoretical and empirical foundations for social-emotional learning (SEL) and its significance on youth positive development. It acknowledges the importance of catering to a diverse student population, nurturing their social and emotional development, and creating responsive interventions that acknowledge and address cultural and linguistic differences. These considerations will foster work that ensures diverse student populations are represented in the research and appropriately served in practice.

Keywords: Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) , Social-emotional health, decision-making SEL assessment