

A product evaluation of an alternative education programme for undocumented children in Sabah

Abstract

This study is an evaluation of the Alternative Education Programme (AEP) at an alternative learning centre in a migrant settlement in the West Coast of Sabah. The study aim was to identify the outcomes of the programme on the students, teachers and community at the ALC site and examined these from the perspective of (1) the students' cognitive, affective and psychomotor domain, and (2) the community. This study employed a mixed method approach where qualitative data was derived from both in-depth and focus group interviews with parents, students and teachers. Quantitative data was obtained through a survey questionnaire administered on students. Findings indicated the students attaining higher levels in the cognitive domain after participating in the AEP and being able to apply the new knowledge in their daily lives. This pointed to them acquiring a significant advantage over their peers not enrolled in the AEP in terms of higher levels of psychomotor attainment and the ability to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in their daily lives and employment activities. For the community, a better understanding of the importance of education for the future of their children was inculcated. Students' involvement in religious, civics and citizenship learning demonstrated improved values and practice of religion and harmony among the villagers. The AEP has brought positive changes in attitude, behaviour and lifestyle in the community.