

REFLECTIONS ON REPOSITIONING CYPRUS IN ASIAN CENTURY: LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses reflections on repositioning Cyprus in Asian Century by underlying the leadership and learning. The paper highlights the development, opportunities and research issues in Cyprus. In addition, it gives insights on the quality in higher Education and e-learning practices. This paper is conceptual study which aims to draw critical reflection on leadership and learning in Cyprus. In this respect, document analysis was used as a method to examine inferences, reflections and conversation. This paper sheds a light of qualitative nature which relies on reflections, inferences and experiences. In this respect, paper gives importance to leadership and learning in Cyprus and its strategic importance in Asian Century.

Keywords: E-learning, higher education, learning, service differentiation

INTRODUCTION

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. It is a state of the European Union. Cyprus has a strategic role in physical context in the world. It is a bridge to connect Europe, Africa, Asia. Cyprus is a developing country that fosters multicultural societal values from coming its heritage. In this respect, Cyprus has strategic innovation capacity which has intensified need for leadership for continuous learning and development.

Cyprus has potential for development and do research. In this respect, leadership has a great role for development. It is essential to use e-learning practices in the world in order to cross borders within multi cultural context. It can be centre of excellence in crises management which will facilitate secured and innovative learning spectrum on an education island.

METHOD

Qualitative research design was employed in this paper (Denzin, Lincoln, 2003). Documents and literature researches were analyzed to draw reflection on learning and leadership in Cyprus. Development, opportunities, research issues, leadership and learning, quality in higher education and e-learning practices become themes to examine repositioning Cyprus in Asian Century in relation to leadership and learning. Critical way of thinking and experiences supports to enhance reflection on the focus of the paper.

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSION

Development, Opportunities and Research Issues in Cyprus

Cyprus with its strategic importance has very rich historical, cultural, economical resources. Now it is attracting the attention of international companies with its energy resources, tourism and education sectors. As Cyprus now offers

regional and global opportunities in education and also research in energy, tourism, health, it is becoming center of attraction in Asia.

In these respects, leadership plays a great role to create opportunities in Cyprus in research. European Union is providing resources in research and energy resources adding power to the continuing strategic importance in the region.

Although Cyprus has political problems, leadership has enough experience to overcome this political problem. In this respect, the learning leadership will play a great role in the future of Cyprus. In the prevention of crises and problems, education can also play a key role for continuous development in the areas of international marketing of the resources. Education, especially higher education in Cyprus can offer great opportunity in the repositioning of Cyprus in Asian Century. In addition, leadership for continuous learning and development can play a great role to protect the strategic importance of the island with the undesirable power of science, research and knowledge.

Leadership and Learning

Leadership is defined as finding a way to be successful in the society by planning the future. It is a process of social influence in accomplishing tasks.

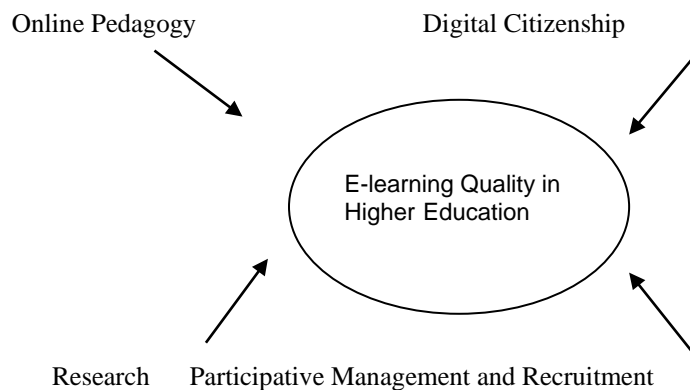
Brown, Posner (2001) discusses the importance of the relation between leadership and learning. Transformational learning concepts provide effective leadership competences. In this respect, the study of Taylor (2000) summarizes transformational learning as a learning environment for self critical reflection, self dialogue, personal exploration and experience.

Leadership is an innovation to foster learning. It facilitates entrepreneurship for the welfare of people. The study of Ashkanasy (2002) enlightens leadership in Asian century by considering lessons from the globe. Global leadership dimensions which are charismatic, team, self-protective, humane, participative, autonomous enriches Asian century leadership as a harmonic picture. It is seen that Asian economy plays a great role that organizational leadership and participative leadership are essential for continuous learning.

Barber (2009) presents a model for educating people. In the model, educated person should have critical thinking, knowledge and skills. In this respect, information technology provides opportunity in education to foster these skills. Cyprus an island of education has a competitive advantage, in the education sectors enhancing leadership skills. In addition, participative leadership is crucial for supporting continuous learning within a team spirit.

Quality in Higher Education and E-learning Practices: Cross borders

Differentiation in services in higher education, e-learning practices become elements of innovation and quality (Gazi A., Aksal A. 2011). The study of Gazi, A., Aksal. A. (2013) underlines e-learning strategy in higher education. In this study, the following model enlightens e-learning in higher education for the quality and service differentiation.



It can be seen that the use of technology for learning and teaching, online pedagogy, participative management within organization, improving employability and skills; research based activities, diffusing digital citizenship play great role for quality in higher education. In this respect, information technology can be used as a constructive solution for crossing borders, country recognition, quality and development. E-learning practices provide opportunities to cross borders in Cyprus and spread education in equality. Participative leadership facilitates opportunity for engaging the team for continuous development.

Social and systemic organization models can be adapted to higher education systems to continue learning and development (Leskiw, Singh, 2007). In this respect, development mechanism for the opportunities in Cyprus can be enhanced by leadership. Cyprus with its strategic location hosts students from more than 90 countries. It has potential to act as a global platform using independent research driven approach. This will enable Cyprus to diffuse knowledge and development. Technological innovations will contribute to reposition Cyprus in the neighboring countries in Asian region. Especially higher education, international marketing at Asia-pacific region will facilitate international integration and collaboration via networking to reshape Asia Pacific region (Chao, Samiee, Yip, 2003).

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