

Leading Gifted Education in Saudi Rural Schools: Case Studies of Differently Performing Schools

Authors : Abdullah Almalky, Colin Evers

Abstract : Gifted individuals in rural areas may lack access and opportunities compared with urban students. This case study research provides research-based evidence to identify the professional needs of principals running rural schools with gifted education (GE) programs. The data were obtained from diverse cases (high-performing [HP] and low-performing [LP] schools) by conducting interviews with principals and teachers, conducting focus groups with gifted students, and analyzing policy documents. The findings reveal a lack of knowledge among principals in relation to GE. However, HP schools were more concerned with the needs of gifted students compared with LP schools. In addition, principals of HP schools were mostly instructional leaders, whereas LP schools were mostly led by building managers. Therefore, the study recommends a revision of GE policy in Saudi Arabia and urges ministries of education and universities to consider including GE in principals' and teachers' preparation programs to better serve gifted students in schools.

Keywords : gifted, Saudi Arabia, leadership, policy, rural education, case study, interview

Conference Title : ICGESENG 2022 : International Conference on Gifted Education and Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted

Conference Location : Sydney, Australia

Conference Dates : March 28-29, 2022