

# LEISURE EDUCATION: BUILDING COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

## Leisure Education in the School System

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Presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Leisure Congress,  
Quebec, October 2008

“Socialization is the process by which individuals acquire the knowledge, skills and dispositions that enable them to participate as more or less effective members of groups and the society”

*(Brim, 1966, p.6)*



# Socialization

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graph TD; A[Socialization] --> B[Socialization through leisure]; A --> C[Socialization into leisure];
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- Socialization **through** leisure

Leisure is a valuable resource for personal, societal and cultural development.

- Socialization **into** leisure

The process through which children acquire the aspects that affect their leisure choices, behavior and experiences in their lives

Family

Peers

School

Media

} **Socialization agents**

# Schools as socializing agents for leisure

- Schools play a major role in the socialization process.
- In addition to teaching young people intellectual and technical skills, schools also teach them cultural values and attitudes which prepare them for their roles as adults.



# Leisure Education

- Leisure education is a lifelong learning process which incorporates the development of leisure attitudes, values, knowledge, skills and resources.
- The formal and informal education systems are in a pivotal position for implementing leisure education and encouraging and facilitating the involvement of the individual in this process.

(WLRA Charter on Leisure Education)



# School Curriculum

- “whatever is taught inside and outside the school which is directed by the school...[it includes] the content and sets of subjects, materials and performance objectives as well as what the individual learner experience as a result of schooling..”

(Oliva, 1997).



# Factors affecting curriculum

**Philosophical**

What is worth learning?

**Psychological**

How do we attend to the interests and needs of students?

**Social**

How can we guide and orientate students towards the society and culture in which they will live their lives?

**School curriculum**

**Society**

What do teachers and  
students think?



# The Role of School in Developing Work & Leisure Interests and Skills in Students



# Most popular definitions of leisure education:

1. Enable students to discover what leisure means to them.
2. Help students to develop favorable attitudes towards their leisure time and to think positively about it.
3. Help students identify their own skills and abilities that they can use in their leisure activities.
4. Help students learn basic physical, social and creative skills through which they can increase their options and directions of leisure involvement.
5. Help students to choose leisure activities that meet their own needs and interests.



# Developing students' strengths

- "The school should focus on developing students' own strengths. For example if a student is good in sports but relatively weak in languages, the school should help to train the student to be an athlete or coach. Everybody has his or her own strengths. It is pity to block students' way only because of their English proficiency.. Their talents are buried in this way.. " (student 000019)

# Developing students' creativity

- "Our school only teaches us to study hard. The school teachers are too stubborn... They should stress more on students' creativity and provide more activities for students. We only have quiz games now at schools" (student 000023)



# Learning through play

- “My school life is so boring, I prefer learning by playing or entertainment. It’s important to give us chances to go outside the school to see different things...” (student 000150)



# Provide information

- " The school can distribute booklets and hold some exhibitions to introduce different activities for students to join" (student 000152)



# Outside school activities

- "Our school can provide more extra-curricular activities and societies for students to join. Organizing out door visits , e,g, a day trip to Tai O is also a good idea

With more extracurricular activities, students can try more different things e.g. playing tennis.. Organizing a trip can help students to learn more about Hong Kong and to enhance the friendship among classmates"  
(student 000223)



# Preparation for life

- "Studying is too harsh for us. So our school should provide different activities for students, so that we can have a balanced life.." (student 000364)



# Objectives of Leisure Education in Schools



**knowledge,  
understanding  
and awareness**

**What do I  
know?**

**emotions and  
values**

**How do I feel?**

**behavior,  
habits and  
skills**

**What and how  
do I do?**

# Frameworks & Channels

Formal	Informal
<p>All school subjects</p> <p>Special unites of study</p> <p>Educational activities</p>	<p>Different non examinable experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>trial &amp; error</li><li>reciprocity</li><li>free choice</li><li>structural flexibility</li><li>community involvement</li></ul>



# Strategies

1. **Using teachable moments with a potential for leisure education**
2. **Planned integration of leisure concepts and contents to as many as possible school subjects**
3. **Learning by means of recreation activities**
4. **Leisure as a subject of study in itself**
5. **Leisure experimentation**
6. **Integration of leisure through multi and Inter-disciplinary design**
7. **Building a school leisure program with the involvement of parents, community institutions and facilities at large**



# Five action cycle



# Personnel

**School Principal**

(Responsibility for overseeing the implementation)

**Leisure education  
coordinator**

(Organizing, integrating and coordinating learning experiences)  
(Liaison with other community bodies)

**Grades coordinators**

**All school teachers**

**Counselors**

# Teachers as socializing agents for leisure

- "I believe that the role of teachers is very important . They can influence students a lot". (student 001028)
- ".. I think it is better to talk to students one-by-one. We need to know what the student is doing as well as his needs, before we know how to teach him" (student 000900)



# What is needed from teachers?

- Personal awareness of leisure needs and interests
- Facilitator of learning
- Open-minded
- Teacher-student relationship
- Role-model
- Implicit and hidden curriculum



# Necessities of the process

- Active & Experiential Learning
- Motivation & Satisfaction
- Personal & Social settings
- Student-centred Experiences
- Empowerment & Facilitation



Thank you.

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