

The Value of Grit in Formal and Informal Education in Armenia “Hazarashen” Armenian Centre for Ethnological Studies (HACES)

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The research project intends to study the value of grit as taught through formal and informal education (pre-school, primary and secondary school) in present-day Armenia. The project’s research team understands the concept of “grit” as a set of attributes that includes perseverance, endurance, self-control, hard work, and being oriented toward long-term goals. The terms “formal and informal education” refer to the knowledge, norms, and values acquired from the syllabus in the class-room, on the one hand, and from the so-called “hidden syllabus” in the environment outside the classroom or at home, on the other.

The project is broken down into two stages. During the first year, research will focus on defining how grit is transmitted to pre-school aged children. In the second year, the place grit holds in the education of school-aged children and adolescents will be examined. The research will use a mixture of methods, which include qualitative and quantitative interviews, analyses of existing relevant quantitative data, observation, and the textual, video and audio analysis of documents and teaching materials.

A growing volume of research literature has demonstrated the link between grit developed at an early age and subsequent personal achievement in life. The current research will provide an opportunity to better understand the role attributed to this value in the education system of present-day Armenia as well as trace possible transformations in values after the dissolution of the Soviet Union (grit was a value broadly propagandized by Communist ideology).