

Intercultural Sensitivity of Georgian Students

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One of the main criteria for determining levels of democratic reform and the development of civil society is the degree of intercultural sensitivity within a country's subcultures. Therefore, for a newly emerging democratic country, such as Georgia, the development of an intercultural sensitive generation of youth is extremely important. It is for this reason that the research aims to study intercultural sensitivity existing among Georgian, Armenian and Azeri youth. The research will focus primarily on students, as they are the most active social stratum.

Previous research has revealed that questionnaires known in psychology for measuring intercultural sensitivity lack the multifaceted aspects of the multicultural sensitivity construct in Georgia. This is because these questionnaires only measure sensitivity among distinctly different cultures, lacking the ability to reflect different dimensions of sensitivity towards various cultures simultaneously.

In order to adequately measure intercultural sensitivity in Georgia, it is therefore necessary to consider ethnic structures and specific aspects of Georgian society, creating a research instrument adapted to this reality. Thus, the goal of this study is to measure the intercultural sensitivity of students (Georgian, Armenian and Azeri) towards different cultures in general, while also assessing the sensitivity of representatives from each of these cultures in comparison with one another.

The research will be based mainly on Bennett's theoretical approach to intercultural sensitivity. This concept will be analyzed as a personal construct that ranges from transitional stages, to extreme ethnocentrism, to extreme ethno-relativism.

The study will therefore be based on an instrument developed specifically for this purpose. As a result of the implementation of this project, a reliable and valid instrument for measuring intercultural sensitivity will be developed. Regarding the previous student example, the instrument will evaluate the field of intercultural sensitivity among youths in Georgia. This field will then be described with consideration to ethnicity, gender and capital-regions.