INTERVENTION FROM THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN UPUA’s SENIOR DIPLOMA IN THE PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT FOR THE PREVENTION OF SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM

(APAE for its initials in Spanish)

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INTRODUCTION

Education is essential to reach personal maturity and autonomy as well as economic and social progress. The fight against social exclusion requires an effort so that every individual can at least receive a basic education which allows them to make headway in their personal and social development.

The Alicante Town Council and the University of Alicante are collaborating in several activities focused on benefiting citizens, including therein interests related to educational development, intergenerational solidarity, social cohesion, volunteering and lifelong learning.

METHODOLOGY

- Every ESO (Spanish initials for Compulsory Secondary Education) student is important.
- A warm, welcoming environment
- Detection of learning disorders and use of specific aid schemes
- Learning paces adapted to each student’s problems
- Motivated and active senior volunteers
- Regularly providing families with information about the progress made by their children
- Suitable material resources

AIMS

- Extending the right to education to the whole school population
- Reducing the risk of school absenteeism amongst compulsory education students
- Offering school-related support to students whose families, due to different reasons, cannot give their children enough attention when it comes to reinforcing school tasks
- Developing intergenerational solidarity
- Boosting active ageing
- Promoting an inclusive society by means of education

CONCLUSIONS

- It was possible to guarantee the quality of this programme thanks to the contributions made both by close relatives and by the teachers from educational centres, as well as by the volunteers involved, since most of them have made a positive assessment of the activity.
- The number of senior volunteers must increase so that students’ demands can be properly met.
- There must be a smaller number of students in support groups and replacement tasks need to be carried out.
- It is necessary for the institutions involved to strengthen the support needed for teaching infrastructures and means.
- A boost should be given to schemes focused on coordination, cooperation and mutual exchange between volunteers.

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