'Specialization in ICTs and Special Education: Psychopedagogy of Integration' Postgraduate Program
DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE Department of Greek Philology in collaboration with
NCSR DEMOKRITOS Informatics and Telecommunications Institute

A STUDY ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF DIGITAL MEDIA TO THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

TSATSARAGKOU XARALAMPIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper consists of two parts. The first part reviews the bibliography and presents the main features, difficulties faced by children with autism and traditional teaching methods used for their education. Also, the technological educational material that has been developed with the aim of improving the cognitive, social and communication skills of children with autism is investigated. In the second part of the paper, a survey was conducted investigating the views of 72 Special Education teachers in Primary and Secondary Education of the Prefecture of Attica regarding the use of digital media in the education of children with autism spectrum disorders. A questionnaire was used to collect the data and it was distributed electronically through social media to groups of special education teachers. The method used in the research was that of descriptive statistics, and the analysis of the data was done with the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program.

The research findings showed that special education teachers tend to use digital media as a teaching tool. Participants were more likely to use digital media for preparing the lesson than they do during the teaching process. In general, all the participants, as it turned out, have obtained ICT certification and stated that they feel joy and creativity when using digital media in the educational process. Also, the majority of the teachers in the sample agreed that digital media bring positive learning outcomes and improve many of the characteristics of children. The research found that ICT certification has a statistically significant effect on the frequency of use of digital media by teachers. At the same time, Gender, Age, and Years of Service significantly affect participants' statements.

Keywords: Digital Media, Children with Autism, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Teacher Opinions, Education of Children with Autism

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