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Abstract

There are a set of daunting issues facing todays' educators ranging from high stakes tests, substance abuse, suicide, academic standards, media and technology, teacher retention to dropout. The need for effective schools that prepare students not only to pass tests in schools but also to pass tests of life is highly recommended. Researches in the educational field ensure that Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) can be a remedy to most of those dilemmas because it is composed of social- emotional competences and academic achievements which are intermingled. According to Zins and Elias (2006), SEL is the capacity to recognize and manage emotions, solve problems effectively, and establish positive relationships with others, competencies that are essential for all the students. It is the process of acquiring and effectively applying the knowledge, attitude and skills necessary to recognize and manage emotions; developing caring concern for others; making responsible decisions, establishing positive relationships; and handling challenging situations capably. The present paper seeks to provide information of the nature of SEL, its implementation in pre-tertiary and tertiary education, the key components for effective ESL, and its problems and implication. Suggestions and implications for further research are also given.