

KNOW AND CAN CLUBS

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KNOW AND CAN ASSOCIATION



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Established in 2007 in Sofia, Bulgaria Know and Can Association main goals are to:

- ▣ work out and apply specialized programs for developing people's intellect by the methods of non-formal education
- ▣ Develop and manage own programmes and projects in the sphere of non-formal education
- ▣ Participate in national and international programmes and projects



KNOW AND CAN ASSOCIATION

- ▣ Know and Can Association targets the provision of non-formal learning and educational development for young people
- ▣ It developed a series of programmes commonly-referred to as “lessons for thinking”, or “Know and Can Clubs” in which the focus is on intellectual stimulation, creative thinking and active participation

NONFORMAL EDUCATION (NFE)

- Early references traced in the late 1960s
- Still considered as secondary to, or a poor imitator of, formal education provision
- often emerges as a direct response to a pre-identified problem in a given society
- is more goal- and purpose-oriented
- is flexible, learner-centred and participatory
- is more practical than theoretical
- is a continuing and lifelong learning process

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- ❑ create a medium for faster socialisation among students;
- ❑ stimulate the development of consciousness and brain activity;
- ❑ lead to improved skills and abilities;
- ❑ facilitate communication among different actors and participants;
- ❑ encourage participants to befriend their peers in non-formal environments
- ❑ invoke creative-thinking, a readiness for risk taking and improved decision-making capacity

KNOW AND CAN CLUBS

The main aim of the intellectual programs is:

To encourage students to take a more active part in the learning process, building interest, taking responsibility for their education and making informed decisions on future study and careers paths. This happens in an extra-curricular, elective-learning activity where students often contribute and take part more actively than they would during compulsory classes.



KNOW AND CAN CLUBS

- ▣ “Know and Can Clubs” exist involving primary school pupils (aged 7-10), secondary school students (aged 11-14) and high school students (aged 15-18)
- ▣ Lower level programmes (primary and secondary) comprise a series of 30 learning activities, which increases to 34 learning activities for high school students

OBSERVATIONS

The following negative tendencies have been observed:

- ▣ a more passive attitude in relation to out-of-school activity leading to less interests in any educational sphere;
- ▣ core ambitions that centre on gaining better results (marks) at school;
- ▣ less and less young people are interested in further developing their intellectual capacity

CONSEQUENCES

- ▣ a lack of ambition for personal development
- ▣ not profound interests and smattering knowledge during teenage years
- ▣ a sense of indifference among young people in relation to the selection of future careers

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- ▣ children to accept themselves and others as they already are;
- ▣ learn to be tolerant;
- ▣ become aware of their role in life;
- ▣ be flexible, positive and adaptable when facing complicated life situations;
- ▣ be steady to the negative outer influences;
- ▣ work on personal development issues;
- ▣ develop intellectual potential

PROGRAMME BENEFITS

- ▣ improved interest in the process of thinking;
- ▣ greater ambition for success;
- ▣ broader spheres of interest among young people;
- ▣ enhanced creative-development skills

PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY

- ▣ The “Know and Can Clubs” learning programmes are based on the theory and methodology of Edward de Bono on lateral thinking (side thinking)
- ▣ Lateral thinking is closely related to insight, creativity and humour and is concerned with the generation of new ideas
- ▣ Lateral thinking is not a substitute for vertical thinking: both are required and are complimentary. Lateral thinking is generative. Vertical thinking is selective

PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY

- ▣ The “Know and Can Clubs” learning programmes provide young people with the possibility to step “out of the box” of logical thinking and to develop imagination, fantasy and creativity
- ▣ All exercises are optional, none compulsory, and there are no right or wrong answers
- ▣ The “Know and Can Clubs” learning programmes are different from traditional classes as students need to think beyond usual expectations

I LEARN Programme for Primary School Pupils (aged 7- 10)

Operates mostly in a game-play environment in which pupils:

- ▣ pick up complex terms and objects from the world around them;
- ▣ develop capacity for fantasy and creative thinking;
- ▣ develop attention, coordination, patience and special vision and the so called “inner break”;
- ▣ improve their skills for calm communication;
- ▣ develop social habits;
- ▣ develop verbal communication skill

I LEARN Programme for Primary School Pupils (aged 7-10)

For pupils in the third and fourth grades (aged 9-10), some I LEARN activities are also undertaken in English centred on:

- ▣ activities for cognitive development (attention, memory, intellect);
- ▣ games that support the development of self-control, self-awareness, self-belief

I LEARN Programme for Primary School Pupils (aged 7- 10)

I LEARN programme relies on:

- ▣ practical exercises for the development of perception, attention and memory;
- ▣ tasks that centre on the development of intellectual, self-oriented and creative skills, active learning;
- ▣ tasks that target the development of tolerance;
- ▣ games that facilitate communication and the formation of habits for self-control or personal behaviour

I AM Programme for Secondary School Students (aged 11-14)

I AM programme exists in two formats:

- ▣ humanitarian (predominantly verbal and literary tasks and activities)
- ▣ mathematical (predominantly logical, mathematical and puzzle-based tasks and activities)

The programmes can be delivered in Bulgarian or English.

I AM Programme for Secondary School Students (aged 11-14)

I AM programme aims to achieve:

- ▣ more complex development of attention, memory, speech and observation skills;
- ▣ the development of non-standard thinking (through solving logical problems and riddles)
- ▣ rational ways of thinking able to facilitate the traditional learning process;
- ▣ improved creative thinking and cognitive processes (through intellectual game-playing)
- ▣ improved organisational ability.



I CAN Programme for High School Students (aged 15- 18)

- ▣ centres on personal development and self-determination much of which is also connected to an individual student's choice of study or career
- ▣ determine a personal thinking style, also improving their awareness and tolerance of other people's thinking habits;
- ▣ become more effective in their use of personal intellectual resources;
- ▣ share experiences and mutual points of view with others

I CAN Programme for High School Students (aged 15- 18)

I CAN programme includes activities connected to:

- ▣ personal development (self-awareness; self-confidence; self-regulation);
- ▣ communication;
- ▣ vocational guidance;
- ▣ case-solving and decision-making;
- ▣ creative thinking;
- ▣ time management

CONCLUSION

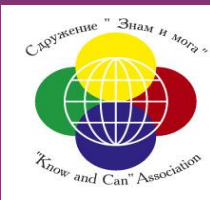
“Know and Can Clubs” provide :

- ▣ non-formal learning and personal development activity that centres on intellectual game-playing and lateral thinking
- ▣ participating of young people with an opportunity to build knowledge and develop social and communication skill
- ▣ improved levels of self-confidence and self-belief
- ▣ social skills for interacting with peers and others

CONCLUSION

Lateral thinking can bring about change through introducing new perspectives on creative thinking, making individuals responsible for their thoughts and decisions and improving personal and career development pathways.

“Know and Can Clubs” provide a vehicle, outside of formal education, that enables this creative, participative, and self-developmental journey to begin.



THANK YOU!

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