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The Contribution and Influence of Pre-Military Activity on Its Graduates

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Abstract

The article will address the contribution of the pre-military activity in Israel in the high schools to the success of its graduates, while examining the influence of this activity on the motivation and success of its graduates in the continuation of post-secondary school technological studies. This article will discuss the unique characteristics of this activity in Israel, with its integration into the educational system, including the synergy between, on the one hand, the military and, on the other hand, the educational system and the Israeli industry.

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Keyword: Military service, Pre-military activity, post-secondary school studies, technological education.

1. Introduction

Education lies at the basis of change that enables growth in the technology-rich global world in which we live (Levin, 1995).

Schools in Israel and around the world are required to exist in an intensive period of powerful changes. Economic and social changes, such as those that are occurring now and that are expected to happen to us in the future, have

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implications on the re-design of the school, including its objectives and the nature of the educational processes that occur in it (Anderson & Maninger, 2007; Avidov-Ungar & Eshet-Alkalai, 2011).

The technological developments we have seen in recent years, in the countries of the West, including in Israel, present the decision makers in the government organizations with challenges in the creation of professional human capital in both the traditional and the modern industries (Lotan, 2007).

The development of new professions and the elimination of traditional professions is a clear characteristic of the period in which we live. Moreover, in light of the characteristics of the period, the average employee will change his career a number of times during his life (Toshav Eichner, 2009). This reality requires of the potential employee not only skills and expertise but also flexibility and adaptability and even creates collaborations between employers and the governments, out of the desire to provide a solution for this reality (Lotan, 2007). The Israeli industry and the Israel Defense Force, which constitute the large consumers of technological manpower in the Israeli economy, are challenged as a result by these processes and changes and are required to constantly present solutions on these issues (Yanko, 2013). In the State of Israel, as a result of the security reality with which the State has coped from the day it was established, there is a compulsory draft that obligates young people aged eighteen and above to be drafted into the military service (Knesset, 2014). In the context of this draft, the young people are channeled into different frameworks, with emphasis on the combat framework and the technological framework, when the number of people serving in them is relatively large (Tzadok, 2009). The technological framework in the Israel Defense Force is defined as one of the critical frameworks in strategic terms and bases its power on advanced technologies (Tzadok, 2009). The Israel Defense Force, as a client of the Israeli educational system, is significantly challenged by the decrease in the number of people who are studying in the technological programs (Vargen & Natan, 2008). This decrease influences its ability to fulfill its purpose.

In the framework of the manpower challenge it faces, the Technology and Logistics Department of the Israel Defense Force holds extensive pre-military activity in the framework of which the Department works to increase the motivation of young people to choose technological studies and technological service (Tzadok, 2009; Yanko, 2013).

The pre - military program includes activities whose purpose are

to prepare the young people for a full and significant military service, and provide them preparation for the meeting with military life. (Ministry of Education, 2014).

The pre-military activity constitutes a solution for these challenges, and at its basis is the empowerment of the learners, while leveraging their abilities both for post-secondary school studies and for significant technological service as a means for their potential integration as a quality workforce in the Israeli industry.

2. Paper Rational

The professionalism of the technological soldier in the field is critical to the success of the Israel Defense Forces in the field of battle, when dealing with the extreme challenges placed at its doorstep.

The entrance of new technologically advanced weapons obligates the Israel Defense Forces to find creative solutions in the manpower performing mandatory military service, as a result of the decline in the number and quality of the learners in the technological program in the secondary school educational system.

The research study will develop insights into the increase of the motivation for the post-secondary school technological studies and the influence of the pre-military education activity on the graduates' success.

The fulfillment of the research insights will enable the prevention, ahead of time, of failures and obstacles with the formation of tools for the improvement of the process.

3. Gap in knowledge

This research study constitutes an innovation in that it enables a look at the contribution of the pre-military programs on the one hand to the graduate and on the other hand, to the Israel Defense Forces and the State of Israel, until this date there has not been any research undertaken in this area.

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