

Is your Missionary school program fulfilling its purpose?

A qualitative study of the effectiveness of the Lithuanian Conference Missionary school's program on developing the spiritual and evangelic skills of the Missionary school's students

“Every true disciple is born as a missionary” E. G. White

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Introduction

Engaging the students to contribute a critical assessment of the Missionary School's program is critical for the future development of the SDA Church in Lithuania.

The way the students perceive their Missionary School can be vital for improving their preparation and involving them in the church ministry.

Background

The study on students regarding the development of their missionary skills reveals:

- Training program must be the key instrument in the development of the missionary skills
- Areas of strength of the students skills, which were developed because of the training
- Areas to be improved in the school program

Population

- Students, members of SDA Church, at the Missionary School
- One focus group
- Geographic areas: country Lithuania
- Students from rural and urban areas
- Interviews with students

Study Research Methods

- Literature Review
- Qualitative research design
- Focus groups and interviews

Research questions

- In what ways has the MS program helped you or other students to develop their spiritual skills?
- In what ways has the school program **not** helped you to developed spiritual or evangelistic skills?
- What perceptions do students about the program's improvement?

Positive Findings

- Development of personality
- Relationship
- New understanding of their role as a missionary
- Better understanding of Bible prophecies
- Meditating on the word of God
- Leading small groups
- School helped to be more involved in the church ministry
- Importance of prayer
- Togetherness is one of the key factors
- Encouragement from being together
- Sharing experiences
- Development of spiritual and evangelistic skills
- Development of personality
- Relationship
- New understanding of their role as a missionary
- Deeper understanding of the books of Daniel and Revelation

Areas of improvements

- A certain theoretical concept is too liberal
- Teachers should take in account background of the students
- Program must be more focused on youth
- Students need encouragement from local pastor

Conclusions

- The school's program is suitable to prepare missionaries to serve in Lithuania
- Curriculum could be improved: leadership, family, youth ministry, prayer

Recommendations

- Curriculum must be enhanced by new modules
- Mentorship and coaching programs
- Better explanations of the goals of the program
- The program did not have a module on leadership
- Eschatology and family ministry
- Include a model of prayer
- Need more time for practice what was learned

