Do Israeli Educational Radio Curricula Cultivate Knowledge, Skills, Creativity and Integration in the Professional Media?

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Abstract

Educational radio stations broadcast from academic institutions such as schools of communication and in the context of communication courses and syllabus. The students operate educational radio stations as set down by university curricula and teaching methods, with the avowed purpose of training students, and giving them practical experience in the radio and communication fields, along with theoretical instruction.

This research project has investigated whether teaching methods used in educational radio contribute to student instruction and whether these methods result in the enriching of student experience and has also taken a closer look at which aspects of their university studies are most beneficial.

To answer these questions, we have used a mixed method approach, which includes quantitative and qualitative research. We have analysed the vision of schools of communication and their encoded syllabuses, to determine which courses the schools were commonly offering, and which pedagogical methods used had the most significance and the greatest impact. We interviewed several groups: lecturers, students, and graduates of all academic programs in educational radio. In addition, a survey was also distributed to prominent media personalities.

We found out that students have often undergone a process that has changed their perception of media demand and has developed their critical powers of observation. We also found that students acquire abilities, and many practical skills and knowledge of the communication world, and that educational radio provides students with optimal and highly positive conditions for the development of motivation, for self-fulfilment, and for self-expression, through the development of original content and creativity. In addition, educational radio has come to represent a significant learning process for deepening the student’s experience, making educational radio a most producing training ground for the integration of students into professional media.

Key Words: Educational radio, Students, Practical experience, Higher Education, Educational media