

Child Rights and the Importance of Child Rights Knowledge Center in the University Space

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The topic of defending children's rights in Georgia gained its importance in 1994, when our country became the part to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, committing to protect and promote children's rights and freedoms. Children need to understand their rights and how to value and exercise them. To attain this goal, the school must provide an environment rich with opportunities to learn children's rights. Children learn and value their rights when they exercise such rights both at and outside the school. To inspire students in their daily lives, teachers must create an environment founded on democratic and human rights principles.

In this regard, the Child Rights Knowledge Center, created in 2021 at Batumi State University with UNICEF's initiative and support is carrying out various innovative activities. The center's purpose is to develop, implement and institutionalize a long-term system for capacity development of academic staff, teachers, school administration, parents and stakeholders in the field of inclusive education and children's rights. A number of significant projects have been implemented recently such as: "Establishment of the Child Rights Center of Knowledge Hub for building Inclusive and Child Rights oriented knowledge, attitudes and practices", "Research on Youth Access to Quality Mental Health Services", "Strengthening University Capacity to Support Inclusive Preschool and General Education". Several articles on children's rights and books on early childhood education were translated, a number of trainings for primary, and secondary school teachers were conducted, and conferences organized. Hundreds of teachers, pupils and students attended the trainings, webinars and information sessions.

This report gives the details of the experience of the BSU Child Rights Knowledge Center in advocating for children's rights in the region, researching challenges related to children's rights, and spreading knowledge.

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Short CVs

Dr. Lela Tavdgiridze, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, is a professor at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and the coordinator of the Child Rights Knowledge Center. Her research interests include pedagogy, didactics, child rights and innovative approaches to teaching and learning. She has authored and edited multiple monographs and textbooks, developed a wide range of course syllabi, and actively contributes as a scholar. Dr. Tavdgiridze has published extensively in Georgian and English internationally recognized, peer-reviewed academic journals.

Dr. Lela Turmanidze, Doctor of Mathematics, is a professor and Dean of the Faculty of Exact Sciences and Education at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University. With over two decades of academic and administrative experience, she has held roles such as Director of the University Library and Head of Quality Assurance. An active researcher and project coordinator, she has contributed extensively to international conferences, scientific publications, and EU-funded projects in education reform, mathematics, and quality assurance.

Dr. Maia Bolkvadze, Doctor of Philology, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pedagogy at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University. Her scholarly work focuses on pedagogy, early childhood education, child rights, contemporary learning processes and instructional methods. She has authored numerous course syllabi and a monograph, and has served as editor and reviewer for several academic publications. Dr. Bolkvadze has published extensively in both Georgian and English in high-ranking, peer-reviewed journals, contributing significantly to the field of educational sciences.

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