

STUDENT'S REAL AND IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS AS PERCEIVED BY TEACHERS*

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this pilot study was to construct an effective instrument that would diagnose and predict student academic performance in school. Two theories dealing with teachers' perceptions of students were compared. A 20 item questionnaire was constructed to evaluate students' characteristics as perceived by teachers. Two types of students' traits were evaluated: those of ideal students and those of real students. Samples: In-service training teachers ($n=49$) evaluated the importance of 20 characteristics of the ideal student (IC). Teachers from two elementary schools ($n=15$) evaluated the 319 students' real characteristics (RC). Students' achievement scores were assessed by teachers' grades and by standardised tests. Validity: Learning, social and personality factors were identified by Factor Analysis. The Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficients for the factors ranged between 0.82 and 0.93. The most important IC's that were chosen by teachers dealt with the potential of learning, but these were the least frequent among those of the RC. A comparison of three age groups concerning the RC indicated different directions: Characteristics of the learning factor showed a linear decrease while those of the social factor increased linearly and the tendency among personality characteristics was in the normal curve shape. The relationship between the indices for the students' characteristics and their academic achievements indicated high to medium correlations. A step-wise Multiple Regression Analysis noted that the learning index contributed to the explanation of all academic subject and skill scores, the social index made a unique contribution to all academic subjects and oral expression. These findings could serve as a basis for improving the learning process through the use of intervention programs for teachers and students.

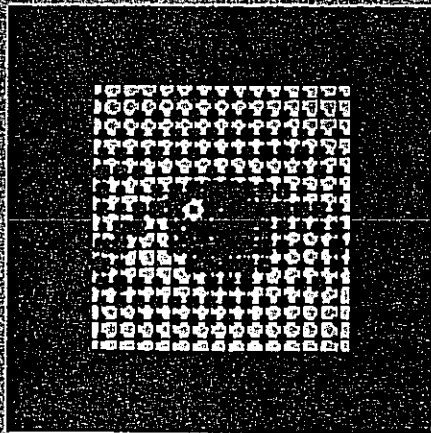
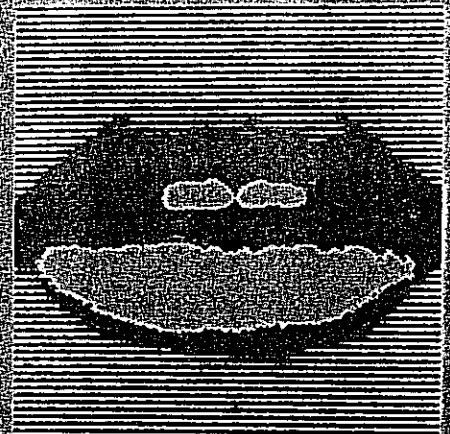
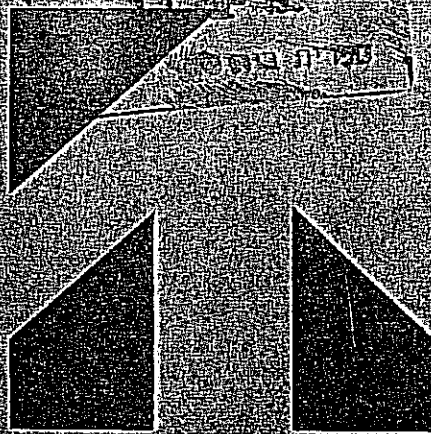
BACKGROUND

Israel is an immigrant country. Immigration and its integration played an important role in shaping its ethnic composition, as also its socio-economic structure and cultural char-

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