Traineeships for Students with Disabilities: A Work Methodology Approach Between Educational Institutions and Fundación Temaikèn

Laura López Ojeda, Fundación Temaikèn, Argentina

Abstract

Fundación Temaikèn believes that biodiversity conservation requires everyone’s commitment. Respecting differences and promoting equal opportunities is building a path towards full participation and effective inclusion for people with disabilities. Fundación Temaikèn has a specific Inclusive Environment Area with professionals specialized in the subject that design activities, educational resources, tools and strategies with inclusive approaches. The Traineeship Program for people with disabilities, developed in 2004, is focused on providing work and social experiences in an environment closely linked to the conservation of the environment. Through this program we encourage students to take an active role as members of their community. Since the program’s inception, 33 students have been part of the program, and 8 different areas of Fundación Temaikèn are within the program scope. The results suggest that the program has a considerable impact in students that lack environmental knowledge and, on top of that, there are just a few opportunities for them to get on this kind of training job. Collaboration among educational institutions, community and organizations like Fundación Temaikèn is essential for a successful program. Through this article, we will show the interdisciplinary and inter-institutional working process between these participants. We share how the occupational analysis, the occupational profiles, the development of the working plan, the monitoring of the performance of each student and their respective evaluation is carried out. Therefore, all zoological institutions can generate similar opportunities for learning and environmental commitment, because everyone can protect nature.