

## Abstracts

### **The Place of Critical Thinking in Iranian Educational System**

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(Received: 29<sup>th</sup>, June, 2017, Accepted: 4<sup>th</sup>, September, 2017, Date of publication: December, 2017)

In educational systems around the world, the idea of teaching higher order thinking on the one hand, and the use of content as a thinking tool on the other within various disciplines have turned Critical Thinking (CT) into a substantive concept and an educational ideal. Conducting research to realize the extent to which critical thinking as an educational ideal has become an educational reality is essential. This study aimed to investigate the Iranian educational system with a focus on critical thinking. A nationwide survey was conducted among 300 school and university students and graduates. The results revealed that an overwhelming majority of Iranian graduates in all levels of education from diploma to Ph.D. lack a substantive concept of CT and experienced a more or less didactic paradigm of education which focuses on mere memorization. Comparison of different groups of graduates belonging to various disciplines did not show and significant difference either.

**Key words:** Critical Thinking, Higher Order Thinking, Didactic Education, Iranian Educational System.

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