

# **A study of the Effects of Small Group Learning on Students' Science Achievement at the Middle School Level**

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## **Abstract**

The major purpose of this research is to study the effects of small group learning on the achievement of Grade Six students in teaching science. This study aims to analyze the effects of small group learning in teaching science to Grade Seven students and to compare the students' achievement between the students who are taught through small group learning and those who are not. Two sample schools from Yangon Region were randomly selected. In this experimental study, the subjects were Grade Six students selected from No (1) BEHS Mayangone and No (4) BEHS Insein. The experimental design adopted in this study was a true experimental design, namely, posttest only control group design. For this study, (120) Grade Six students were selected from both schools by random sampling method. Two types of instruments were used for measurement: the achievement test and the attitude questionnaire. The posttest was based on the content area of Chapter (5). Attitude questionnaire was developed based on small group learning. The selected students were divided into two groups: control group and experimental group. The experimental group was treated with small group learning and the control group was taught by using formal instruction. After that, a posttest was administered to two groups. Independent samples *t*-test was used to analyze whether there was significant difference between these two groups. The results showed that students who received small group learning were significantly better than those who received formal instruction in knowledge level, comprehension level and achievement level of the students in science. The qualitative results showed that students from experimental groups had positive attitudes towards small group learning. In short, the findings proved that small group learning will support to improve science learning and foster students' active participation in science.

**Key words:** small group learning, students' active participation

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