

A Study of the Factors Influencing Choice of Science Subjects and the Academic Achievement of Grade Nine Students

Ma Kyi Swe¹ and Yamin Thu Zar Tun²

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between the factors that influence on students' choices of science subjects and their academic achievement in science subjects at the high school level. The design adopted was a descriptive research design. Four townships were randomly selected from four districts in Yangon Region. Two high schools were selected by using the random sampling technique. The sample in this study consisted of (400) Grade Nine Students. Two instruments, factors influencing choice of science subjects questionnaire ($\alpha = 0.781$) and chemistry, physics and biology achievement tests for Grade Nine students ($\alpha = 0.684$) were employed. Descriptive statistics and Pearson product-moment correlation were used in this study. It was found that the percentage of students' science subjects achievement are 22% at low level, 53% at moderate level and 25% at high level. Students are influenced by ($r = 0.612$) of intrinsic value of subject, ($r = 0.703$) of extrinsic value of subject, ($r = 0.529$) of subject teacher, ($r = 0.721$) of peer group and ($r = 0.749$) of parents. The result showed that students were most influenced by parents and they were least influenced by the subject teacher in choosing science subjects. All of these factors were positively and highly related at 0.01 level. All of these factors were positively and highly related to science subject's achievement. Therefore, the research findings proved that the factors influencing choice of science subjects were highly related to their science subject's achievement.

1. Associate Professor, Dr., Department of Methodology, Yangon University of Education
2. Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Shwekyin), Myanaung Township, Ayeyarwaddy