

The Correlation Study Between Learning Styles and Academic Achievement Among Lower Secondary Students in Bago Region

Myint Myint Mar¹ and Kay Khaing Kyaw²

Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between learning styles preferences and academic achievement among Grade 8 students in Bago Region in 2016-2017 Academic-Year. A total of 815 Grade 8 students from eight selected schools in Bago Region were participated in this study. As the research instrument, Barsch's Learning Styles Inventory (BLSI) (1982) was applied had a reliability of (Cronbach Alpha=0.692). The Grade 8 students' academic achievement was taken from their scores from the results of the examination held in 2016 October, in Bago Region in 2016-2017 Academic-Year. Data were collected by using a questionnaire for survey method and quantitative research design. The data were analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). The most common learning styles preferences for the students was Auditory (A) (44.79%) in this study. The result of independent sample *t*-test showed that significant differences were found in the learning styles preferences for Visual ($t=3.15$, $p<0.05$), Auditory ($t=1.25$, $p<0.05$), Kinesthetic ($t=2.85$, $p<0.05$) and Visual/Auditory ($t=5.34$, $p<0.05$) of Grade 8 students by gender. Significant differences were not found in students' learning styles preferences by their age. According to districts, significant differences were not found in students' learning styles preferences. In academic achievement, the results of *t*-test also showed that gender differences in academic achievement were found significantly at 0.001level. ANOVA results showed that significant differences were also found in academic achievement of Grade 8 students according to age and districts at significant 0.001level. The correlation between learning styles and academic achievement was ($r=0.372$, $p<0.05$) positively correlated and significant at the 0.05 level.

Key words: Learning Styles and Academic Achievement

1. Lecturer, Department of Educational Psychology, Yangon University of Education
2. Senior Assistant Teacher, Basic Education High School(Thanatpin), Bago Region