

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF GRADE 11 STUDENTS' AND TEACHERS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS COOPERATIVE LEARNING IN TWO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN PHNOM PENH

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Abstract: This research was conducted at two international high schools in Phnom Penh, in the school year 2016. The purposes were: 1) to determine the Grade 11 students' attitudes towards cooperative learning; 2) to determine the Grade 11 teachers' attitudes towards cooperative learning; 3) To determine if there was a significant difference between Grade 11 students' and Grade 11 teachers' attitudes towards cooperative learning. The study followed a quantitative research methodology employing both students' and teachers' questionnaires including three main elements of attitudes subscales (affective element, behavioral element, and cognitive element of the ABC model of attitude formation). The sample respondents were 337 Grade 11 students and 51 Grade 11 teachers at two international high schools in Phnom Penh. There were three main findings: 1) the overall level of Grade 11 students' attitudes towards cooperative learning was highly positive; 2) the overall level of Grade 11 teachers' attitudes towards cooperative learning was highly positive; 3) there was no significant difference between Grade 11 students' and Grade 11 teachers' attitudes towards cooperative learning. The article concludes with recommendations for practice and for future research.

Keywords: The ABC Model, Affective, Behavioral, Cognitive, Cooperative Learning, Social Cognitive Theory, Reciprocal Determinism, Self-Efficacy Beliefs, and Constructivism Learning Theory.

Introduction

The inauguration of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2016 led Cambodia to prepare for improving the quality of education, according to Article 67 of the effective constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, 2003, which stated that, "The state shall also adopt an educational program according to the principles of modern pedagogy, including technology and foreign languages, as well as public and private schools and classrooms at all levels" (cited in contribution of UNESCO to compilation UN information, 2010).

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