

ABSTRACT

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Key Words: PROJECT BASED LEARNING, STEM JOBS, STEM CAREER, INTEREST
IN FUTURE STEM CAREERS, ST. JOSEPH CONVENT SCHOOL, BANGKOK,
THAILAND

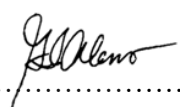
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Thesis Title: A COMPARATIVE-CORRELATIONAL STUDY OF GRADES 7, 8 AND
ENGLISH PROGRAM STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF PROJECT BASED
LEARNING AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDENTS' INTEREST IN
FUTURE STEM CAREERS AT ST. JOSEPH CONVENT SCHOOL, BANGKOK,
THAILAND

Thesis Advisor: ASST. PROF. DR. RICHARD LYNCH

In response to the shift in job demands in the 21st century, it is imperative for educators to explore alternative learning methods to better prepare students for future work landscapes. Drawing upon the Social Cognitive Career Theory (Lent et al., 1994) which posits that learning experiences can affect self-efficacy and outcome expectations leading to career choices, this study investigated project based learning as a viable solution to engage students in STEM studies and careers. The research drew on responses from a population sample of 191 Grade 7, 8 and 9 students in order to measure, compare and determine correlation between the research variables. Students participated in one hour of PBL per week for approximately 12 weeks per term. PBL at St. Joseph Convent School implemented seven essential design elements (Larmer & Mergendoller, 2015) and all subject teachers of each grade level acted as mentors and subject experts. At the end of the school year and two terms of PBL, sampling was conducted using Perceptions of PBL and Interest in Future STEM

Careers instruments adopted from LaForce, Noble and Blackwell (2017). Data analysis revealed high levels of perceptions of PBL and interest in future STEM careers. A correlational analysis confirmed a significant relationship between PBL and promoting interest in future STEM careers in Grades 7, 8 and 9 students. Recommendations on successful implementation of PBL elements as well as suggestions for the PBL teacher to assume a role as mentor are discussed by the researcher.

Field of Study: Curriculum and Instruction **Student's signature**..... 

Graduate School of Human Sciences **Advisor's signature** 

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