

# **A Study of Junior One Students' Adjustment to School Life**

## **Abstract**

This is a study of junior one students' adjustment to school life, the difficulties they undergo and their influence. The main point of the study is the students' adjustment to their school performance and their relationship with their teachers and their peers.

The information was obtained by observing the students in their classroom, interviewing them, analysing the documents, using some questionnaires and giving them tests. In other words, the ethnography approach was used. The information obtained was then analysed thoroughly.

This study shows the following features regarding the students' school life, their adjustment to school performance and the relationship with other people at school.

Regarding the features of Junior One students' school life,

- A. They have a lot of lessons every week and the time they stay at school is quite long.
- B. It is found that they have a large range of subjects to learn and that the content of the subjects is comparatively deep and wide.
- C. The students usually have a large amount of homework and have to prepare for a huge number of tests, which give them a lot of pressure.
- D. The students generally do not get along well with their teachers because different subjects are taught by different teachers. Apart from little contact with students in classroom, the little time teachers spend on students fails to establish a close relationship.
- E. Students curious about the opposite sex and may therefore have fondness for certain students from the opposite sex.

Concerning their school performance,

- A. It is found that different outcomes and influences on students' attitude of learning and achievements exist due to the characteristics of subjects and teachers' ways of teaching.
- B. Their school performance is not stable.
- C. There are four reasons why students have difficulties in learning.
  - a. The number of subjects increases.
  - b. Due to the different standards of teachers and teaching abilities, poor teaching efficiency, and the fact that what they teach does not suit students' need, teachers have to improve their ways of teaching.
  - c. The students lack the suitable ways of learning.

d. They have poor basic knowledge.

D. Students find Chinese, English and Mathematics more difficult than non-academic subjects.

Regarding the students' relationship with other people at school,

A. An analysis of the students' relationship with the teachers

a. It is found that they have better relationship with their class teacher than other teachers. And that they do not have much contact with those who do not teach them and the executive staffs.

b. Students' fondness for their teachers influences their motivation to learn and their school performance.

c. Gender affects the interaction between teachers with students.

d. Teachers' personalities and the ways of their leading influence students' attitude of learning and the atmosphere of a class.

B. An analysis of students' relationship with their peers

a. Students' achievements at school and their characteristics have an effect on their position among their peers.

b. Those who sit close to one another and have similar interests and characteristics usually group together. The pressure from the members of the group affects other members' performance and the orientation of their value.

c. Most of the students prefer to make friends with the same sex, but at the same time they like the opposite sex. So, they have the thought of both hostility and fondness.

Having analysed the features about the student's school life, I have come up with some suggestions to improve the students' performance at school.

A. The school should adopt and arrange a suitable curriculum for the students.

B. The school should strengthen the beginning stage of the student counselling service.

C. The school should encourage teachers to keep on learning and provide them with opportunity to learn a second major subject.

D. The school should consolidate the quality of teachers' teaching and the sense of responsibility as well as their techniques to deal with the students' problems.

E. The teachers should pay more attention to the students' choice of their friends and notice the influence from their peer group.