

Abstract

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of the combination of two approaches in Life Education Curriculum: discussing life through life and discussing life through death, on their self-concept and meaning of life of junior high students.

The subjects of this research are a group of Form One students from two different classes in a local private high school. One class (totally seventeen students) is taken as experimental group while the other class (totally twenty students) as controlled group. During the research period, the experimental group was taught with the curriculum designed by the researcher, whereas the controlled group without any special curriculum. The duration of the experiment was eighteen periods of lessons and each lesson lasted forty-five minutes. The research tool of this study is Self-Concept Scale and Purpose in Life Scale. In order to understand the effect of the combination of these two approaches in Life Education Curriculum on the subjects, the researcher required them to do a pre-test and post-test by finishing the mentioned Scales.

The quantitative data was analyzed by assay way of one-way ANOVA and ANCOVA. The qualitative data was collected through questionnaire and interviews. Careful analysis of the data fully reflects the influence of the designed curriculum on the subjects of this research.

The results of this research are as follows:

1. The designed curriculum, discussing life through life and discussing life through death, has stronger influence on the 'self -concept' of the experimental group than the controlled group.
2. The designed curriculum has more obvious influence on the 'significance of life' of the experimental group than the controlled group.
3. The experimental group has positive attitude towards the designed curriculum.
4. Life Education is essential to Junior Form students.

The purpose of this study was to determine more practical ideas and reference to education departments, schools and educators on the aspect of discussing life through life and discussing life through death in Life Education in the future. This research also provided figures and suggestions on the aspect of discussing life through life and discussing life through death.

Key words: life education, self-concept, the significance of life, junior high students