

Reading Ability of Grade 7 Students in Rebokon Agricultural and Vocational High School and Its Effect to Their Academic Performance

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Abstract: Reading skill is the ability to decode meaning from a text. The skills include phonics, word recognition, vocabulary, decoding and fluency. For one to be a proficient reader, one must possess these vital skills. Results indicated that a correlation did exist between reading and mathematics performance at the early elementary level when including grades seven. School administration should take possible actions in this dilemma. If schools fail to do so, the academic performance of the Grade 7 students will remain until they reach higher grade levels. Reading is the ability to understand words contained in a document and make use of the knowledge for personal growth and development. In addition to this, comprehension can really help the student to understand the meaning of the text words for words. In this study, data of student's respondent from their school academic performance reports will be used to find out of there is a relationship between the relationship of reading ability and the academic performance of students. At the point of finality, we as researchers hope that this study and investigation will become successful and prosperous.

Keywords: Reading Ability, Academic Performance, Philippine Informal Reading Inventory, Reading Level, Reading Comprehension

1. Introduction

Reading is a way to despise ignorance and discrimination. Society is filled with common concept that once somebody can't read, it will be concluded he or she is not educated, at the same time reading is a means of learning. Reading is a form of societal status, hierarchy, and educational attainment.

Having a broad knowledge in reading can bring you to the world where you are able to see the big pictures of success. By reading, people can get knowledge and able to share their thoughts on their minds to others [9].

Good reading ability is important for the students, because this is a tool for a successful life. Students can participate well in the class because they know the exact definition of the words they tackle in their lesson [4].

Reading is a tool for successful life, but unfortunately this

is one of the abilities that students lack or needs improvement specifically the Grade 7 students. Their ability to read has been the problem in the school. What's alarming is that they have a hard time comprehending what they read and eventually refer to using dictionaries for meaning. Due to lack of comprehension, students usually get low or below average scores in quizzes and examinations [15].

There are several factors that we need to consider why do students are having difficulties in reading. One factor would be the inability of the teachers in the primary grade in guiding students in improving their reading abilities. Another would be the parents and lastly the habits and the attitude of the students in terms of how serious they are when it comes to their studies and study habits [12].

On hindsight, elementary teachers should not carry all the burden and blame why this issue has surfaced but it's all about

the heavy academic loads during the grader years [11]. The old educational curriculum cited few subject implementations. At present, as in the third (3) grade, there are 8 subjects to be thought each day. Therefore, there is a lesser and least time to focus into reading development. By the third grade, learners embark on a more complex task that should take them through their academic career: reading to learn [8].

Reading is the ability to understand words contained in a document and make use of the knowledge for personal growth and development [6]. In addition to this, comprehension can really help the student to understand the meaning of the text words for words.

Poor reading skills measure into poor academic performance, while satisfactory or excellent ability is parallel to high academic output [18]. In addition to this, there is really a correlation between reading ability and academic performance of students, because once you have difficulty in understanding or comprehending the text, surely you cannot relate with the topic given [19].

It is argued that poor performance in academic is due to poor mastery of the subject skills which is the reading skills [7] noted that “students taken through reading comprehension skills over a period of time were successful in their academics in comparison to those trained in reading skills” [17].

Moreover, if the students are having good study habits, he or she can perform well in academics and in every situation. It is the reading habits and good academic performance which help the learner with learning disabilities in obtaining meaningful and desirable knowledge. Good reading habits and good academic performance act as a strong weapon for the students with learning disabilities to excel in life [2].

In conclusion, teachers, parents, and school administration play a vital role in shaping and molding the minds of every student. They are the one who helps to encourage the young individuals to continue and pursue their dreams [14]. “Cooperation of the school and families on reading comprehension plays an important role on the performance of the students [13]. When teachers and parents involve in their children’s education, not only students will have higher achievement in schools but also the morale and the motivation of the individuals will increase [5].

Considering the facts that reading is one of the most powerful sources of learning, reading books, articles, and newspapers is evidently a crucial concomitant of intellectual engagement [3]. Because reading is not limited with respect to content, it comes close to the “hungry mind” that is open to new ideas [10].

School administration should take possible actions in this dilemma. If schools fail to do so, the academic performance of the Grade 7 students will remain until they reach higher grade levels.

In this study, data of student’s respondent from their school academic performance reports will be used to find out if there is a relationship between the relationship of reading ability and the academic performance of students.

At the point of finality, we as researchers hope that this

study and investigation will become successful and prosperous.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

This study aims to investigate the reading ability of the Grade 7 students and its effect to their academic performance. We, the researchers will investigate and help to give answer to the following research questions.

- 1) What is the level of reading ability among Grade 7 students?
- 2) What is the academic performance of Grade 7 students?
- 3) Is there any significant difference between the reading ability and academic performance of Grade 7 students?

1.2. Scope and Delimitation

The study is focused on the investigation of the reading ability of the students and how it can affect their academic performance. The study is centered to the Grade 7 students of Rebokon Agricultural and Vocational High School, S.Y: 2020-2021.

We will conduct reading comprehension tests to the students, so that we can identify their ability to read and how they understand the given text.

In this study, PHIL-IRI or the Philippine Informal Reading inventory will be used. This is an inventory tool that assist in determining the reading ability of the students.

2. Methodology

2.1. Research Design

Many methods were contemplated upon, before we finally decided to execute a case study. This design was the most appropriate because we wanted to begin the study without any preconceived notions which could have influenced the findings of the study by bringing in some form of bias or the other.

Descriptive Survey design is done to analyze constructs or themes. Usually, these constructs or themes lead to the identification of variable which is important for the discussion of the study. Descriptive research design will be used in this study because we are tasked to determine and investigate the reading ability of the Grade 7 students in Rebokon Agricultural and Vocational High School in the school year 2018-2019.

2.2. Data Gathering Procedure

With an approval by the teacher in charge in Reading Clinic, we the researchers conducted this study by conducting a Reading session in the sense we can easily determine what would be the performance of the Grade 7 students in Reading and how they comprehend.

To gather factual results, we conducted Reading session to the Grade 7 students second time. 1st session will be happen this 1st week of November. We need to conduct a second time reading session to the respondents so that we can determine if there is an improvement on how they read.

A follow up Reading session conducted in order to find out if there is an improvement in their reading ability.

The researchers prepared a checklist, where in the checklist, the instrument to be read by the students are being stated in the form of Easy, Average and Difficult.

2.3. Quantitative Analysis

This study focused in determining and evaluating the Reading Ability of the Grade 7 students in RAVHS and their academic performance. In this study, we sought to find out if there's a correlation between the reading ability of students and their academic performance. We the researchers will undergo many processes so that we can answer the questions regarding the topic. We will determine the level of reading ability and reading comprehension of the students, and if there is a significance difference between the reading ability and academic performance of the students.

2.4. Presentation of Data and Analysis

This chapter overseen the presentation, analysis and

interpretation of data gathered by the researchers. This study aims to investigate the reading ability of the Grade 7 students in RAVHS in S.Y 2018-2019. The analytical procedures are arranged according to the sequence of specific questions.

Table 1. Reading Ability of the Grade 7 students in RAVHS.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
30 above	28	38	66
24-30	23	16	39
20 below	13	7	20

Total: 125 respondents.

Table 1 shows the reading ability of the Grade 7 students in RAVHS, 38 students from Female group got the highest score in the thirty (30) above level while on the other hand there seven (7) female who got a score in twenty (20) below. Three (3) from section Daisy and four (4) from section Orchids.

It was noted that mostly from Male students who are having difficulties in reading. There are Thirteen (13) males who got the score Twenty (20) below.

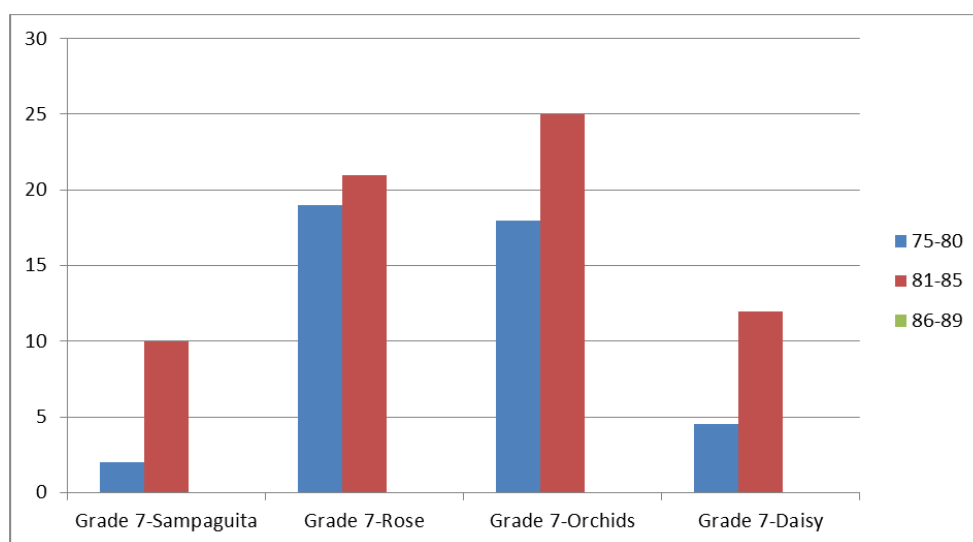


Figure 1. Academic performance of Grade 7-students.

The chart shows the range (average) of the students in their academic performance. In total, it was stated in the chart above that there are 34 male students who got the General Average (GA) of 75-80, compare to the female who have 25 students who got the 75-80 GA. So far, there are 3 female and 2 male students' respondents who got the highest General Average of 85 point something.

Reading ability is the way how you read some text either slow, moderate, or fast. On the other hand, Academic Performance is the result, or the overall total of the performances gain from literacy or any activity.

Based on the results, it was found that there was really a significant difference between reading ability and academic performance. The way you learn how to read is a sign of progress in academic performance. Therefore, there is really a tremendous effect on academic performance if you know

how to read, but your performance will depend on your reading ability. To make it short and concise, Reading ability affects academic performance while Academic performance can't affect reading ability, so it is important to have a good reading ability to get a high academic performance.

3. Findings, Conclusion, and Recommendations

3.1. Findings

Based on the information gathered by the researchers, the findings about the Reading ability and Academic performance of the Grade 7 students are presented below:

- 1) There are 38 female students who got the Fast/Independent level.

- 2) Thirteen (13) Male students who is at Frustration level in reading.
- 3) Mostly male students who are having difficulties in reading.
- 4) There are 34 male students whose General Average is 75-80.
- 5) 5 students who got the highest average of 85.
- 6) Reading ability affects academic performance.
- 7) Academic performance can't affect reading ability.

3.2. Conclusion

- 1) After having our analysis and findings we conclude that:
- 2) Male students are mostly having difficulties in reading.
- 3) There are 38 female and 28 male respondents who is Fast learner.
- 4) Respondents who have a general average of 75-80%.
- 5) 68 respondents who has a general average of 81-85%.
- 6) Good reading habits and good academic performance should be balance.
- 7) It is important to have a good reading ability to get a high academic performance.

3.3. Recommendation

In this study, we recommend the following:

- 1) Students should focus in there study and continue learning.
- 2) School administration should take an action regarding the problem of reading difficulties. If school cannot take an action, the academic performance of the Grade 7 students will retain until they reached to higher grade level.
- 3) School administration should ensure that library resources for students is available.
- 4) Parents should guide their children in terms of their reading ability.
- 5) Student should learn to develop and manage their time properly.
- 6) Other researchers should continue in investigating the Reading ability of the students in the school not only in the Grade 7.

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