Learner Autonomy and Academic Performance among Undergraduate Students

By

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Abstract

Learner autonomy or capacity to learn plays a very vital role in determining the academic success of individuals. Previous research reported that learner autonomy generates higher retention, regulates independent learning and encourages life-long learning. This study aimed to understand the current state of the capacity to function as learners as a way to describe life-long learners. It is essential to assess learners’ levels of autonomy and then establish the relationship of their degree of learner autonomy to the way they perform in some basic courses. The Learner Autonomy Profile was distributed to a sample of 425 Pre-commerce students of Universiti Teknologi MARA Kelantan, selected from marginalized, low income family with poor academic performance in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia level. The results showed a significant positive relationship of the Learner Autonomy Profile score and academic performance of the students. This study has established that Learner Autonomy Profile could be used as a diagnostic tool to enhance students’ capacity to learn.

Keywords: learner autonomy, academic performance, life-long learner