

Abstract

This paper aims at studying the relationship between the use of Mantle of the Expert (MoE) as an approach in teaching and the student development. It aims at seeing whether this approach could be used in dealing with the zone of proximal development (ZPD) in mental and social as well as in the development of life and intellectual skills of the learners. The study is implemented on 26 female students as an intended sample of the 7th elementary grade.

The study used the qualitative content analysis approach. The data was triangulated from the teacher \ researcher observations of a stratified sample (4 lessons of thirteen) recorded by video tape, interviewing the student's sample, and from their written evaluations for the (MoE) approach.

The data generated from all these reports were analyzed with grounded theory approach that was adopted for reporting and later classifying in tables for descriptive statistical analysis. All descriptive tables were quantitatively compared in a refereed check list, which resembled the instrument that was developed.

Results showed that the participant sample developed in their social interaction skills, social values, moral development, self value, as well as in their self appreciation. They developed in their life skills : in how to be independent, how to express themselves in clear language, and how to be cooperate and deal with others during social interaction. They seem to value cooperation more, and

thus seems to encouraging them to learn and to be more motivated to look for further knowledge. The participant students (the intended sample) were really developed according to their views in their learning strategies and in particular in being more motivated to use different resources for their knowledge (i.e inquiry oriented learners). Some of the students reported that this new approach in learning gave them the feeling that they are actualizing themselves.

Recommendations based on the research findings were given on both teaching and research levels. The results suggest that teachers training courses need to be offered on how to use the MoE approach and more research on this teaching approach should be done in Palestine.