



Factors Affecting the Contribution of 1st Year Female Students Tutorial Class on their Academic Achievement in First Semester of 2016, the Case of Afan Oromo and Literature Department



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Abstract

Female students are usually outnumbered by their male counterpart in both academic participation and achievement in all disciplines particularly in tertiary education [1-5]. This study was carried out on first year female students of Afan Oromo department in BuleHora University which is located at 467km south of Addis Ababa. The study was aimed to find out factors that influenced the contribution of first year female students' in Afan Oromo Department on their academic achievement at the first semester of 2016. All first year female students and instructors of Afan Oromo department in the University who participated in tutorial classes in the first semester of 2016 were the focus of this study. The first year Afan Oromo female students and instructors who thought them were administered the questionnaire papers without random sampling. Data were analyzed using SPSS software and the result showed that 100% of the female students and instructors were highly interested in tutorial class. 54.29% of the students responded that teachers did not make proper use of their time. 68.57% of the students took part in tutorial class for general knowledge and 28.57% of them to part in order to obtain maximum result. From the allocated 16 hours, 57.14% used between 10 to 16 hours while 25.71% used 2-4 hours. Insufficient time was the major factor that hindered female students due to teachers' unavailability as 71.43% of the students responded. While lack of class room had less influence on their performance as 5.71% of the students responded. The female students' low academic achievement that semester was a result of insufficient tutorial. Therefore, it is important to take sufficient time to teach and improve female students' academic achievement at future.

Keywords: Tutorial; Academic achievement; Participation; Female students

Introduction

Education is considered as a first step for every human activity in the era of globalization and technological revolution. It plays a vital role in the development of human capital and is linked with an individual's well-being and opportunities for better living [6]. It ensures the acquisition of knowledge and skills that enable individuals to increase their productivity and improve their quality of life. This increase in productivity also leads towards new sources of earning which enhances the economic growth of a country [7]. The relationship between gender and the academic achievement of students has been discussed for decades [8]. Educators, trainers, and researchers have long been interested in exploring variables contributing effectively for quality of performance of learners. These variables are inside and outside school that affect students' quality of academic achievement. These factors may be termed as student factors, family factors, school factors and peer factors [9].

These factors include age, gender, geographical location, ethnicity, marital status, socioeconomic status, parents' education level, parental profession, language, income and religious affiliations. These are usually discussed under the umbrella of demography [10]. Theory of Educational Productivity by [11] determined three groups of nine factors based on affective, cognitive and behavioral skills for optimization of learning that affect the quality of academic performance: Aptitude (ability, development and motivation); instruction (amount and quality); environment (home, classroom, peers and television) [12].

As the grade level in school increases, the number of female students starts to decline due to several factors [13]. Currently, female enrollments in higher education are significantly on the increase. But gender differences still exist in education participation and performance in each year of higher education. This means that

there are factors that hinder female participation and performance in higher education [14]. It has been observed that there is a gap between male and female achievement, while females showing better performance than boys in certain instances [15].

Female students are outnumbered by male students both in participation and academic achievement in all disciplines particularly in tertiary education [16]. Most recent international assessment studies agree that female students tend to have low academic achievement than male students irrespective of their educational level [16]. In Ethiopia, the proportion of females' to males' higher education academic achievement and participation has not yet reached the same [4]. In spite of the fact that important steps were taken towards gender equity, evidence exist that educators treat male and female differently [5]. Teachers' attitudes, treatment and expectations influence girls' performance.

Statements of the problem

Bule Hora University teachers give extra tutorial classes to female students in order to enable them perform better in their academics by separating them from male students usually throughout the semester and mostly when final exam approaches. In Bule Hora the case of Afan Oromo and Literature department, despite that tutorial class is scheduled and instructors make time for the schedule, the academic achievement of the female students is still not satisfactory. This study was aimed to collect data about the various background characteristics on females' academic performance, the major problems that challenge first year female students and the major factors that affect females' academic performance in Afan Oromo department.

General objective

The general objective of this study was to find out factors that affect the academic performance of first year female students of Afan Oromo Department in the first semester of 2016.

Specific objectives

- A. To identify and analyze factors that affect 1st year Afan Oromo female students' academic performance.
- B. To investigate contribution of 1st year Afan Oromo female students' in tutorial class.

- C. To find out solution for the participation of 1st year Afan Oromo female students to tutorial classes.

Research Methodology

Study area

This study was carried out in Bule Hora University located at 467km Addis Ababa. The university had 26 departments in six faculties which support female students by giving tutorial class at the end of the semesters. Out of these departments, Afan Oromo department offered tutorial classes for first year female students by separating them from male students in addition to the normal classes.

Research design

A survey method of descriptive research design was applied in this study so as to clearly describe factors that affect contribution of female students' academic performance. Qualitative approach was used for the purpose of using non-numeric explanation to describe and compare the respondents' opinions for the open ended questionnaire relative to the research topic. Quantitative approach was also used for the purpose of using numeric explanation to describe respondents' response (female students' response on the questionnaires).

Sampling techniques

This study focused on the major factors that affect the contribution of 1st year female students in tutorial class on their academic achievement. Although the female students' problems are multidimensional, this study attempts was made to examine on campus factors. All first year female students and all instructors of Afan Oromo department of Bule Hora University who participated in tutorial class in the first semester of 2016 were the focus of this study. During data collection to minimize error of the data the total numbers of first year. The female students totally achieved the questionnaire papers. Instructors who thought first year female students of Afan Oromo department during first semester of 2016 were totally involved without random sampling.

Data analysis

After collection of data, the quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS and qualitative data were analyzed by narration and summarization.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Factors that influence academic achievement.

	From students					
	Frequency			Percent		
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
Interest of female students in tutorial class	35	0	35	100	0	100
Total time spent by teacher (out of 16hrs)	16	19	35	45.71	54.29	100
Presence or absence of improvement	35	0	35	100	0	100
Teachers' willingness to give tutorial class	35	0	35	100	0	100
From Teachers						

	Frequency			percent		
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
Willingness of teacher to teach tutorial class	2	0	2	100	0	100
Support given to teacher by gender office	0	2	2	0	100	100

All samples from 35 female students and two teachers of the department were properly responded to and the results of the study variables were presented in following descriptive statistics and discussed accordingly. In the study, the data realized from questionnaires were analyzed and indicated in percentages. According to Table 1 below, all the first year female students of Afan Oromo had 100% interest in the tutorial class. However, out of the required 16hrs, 19 (54.29%) of the students responded that the teachers did not make maximum use of the time. Though the time was not maximized, according to the students, there was a high level of willingness from the teachers. Table 1 shows the willingness of the teachers but this did not affect the performance of the students. Thus the teachers' willingness did not have any impact on the students' performance.

According to Table 2, 68.57% of Afan Oromo department first year first semester female students of 2016 participated in tutorial class for general knowledge and 28.57% scored maximum point. And also from the time given (16 hours) to them, 57.14% used their time (10-16hrs) and 25.71% of them used 2-4hours. This difference might be the absenteeism of the student from the tutorial class at the time they were required. Lack of time was the major factor that hindered the female students due to teacher's absence. 71.43% of the students responded that the lack of class room less influenced their participation where 5.71% of them responded. This result shows that academic achievement of first year first semester of Afan Oromo department in 2016 could be affected due to lack of excess time in which students were let from the class.

Table 2: Responses from female students concerning to the tutorial class.

	Responses	Frequency	Percent
Female student's motivation	For general knowledge	24	68.57
	To score maximum point	10	28.57
	To be treated equally with males	1	2.86
	Total	35	100
Time used by female students	10-16	20	57.14
	6-8	6	17.14
	2-4	9	25.71
	Total	35	100
Reasons for teacher's insufficient use of time.	Lack of time	25	71.43
	Lack of excess teacher	3	8.57
	Lack of willingness	3	8.57
	Lack of both class room	2	5.71
	Not known	2	5.71
	Total	35	100
Challenges faced by students during tutorial class	Time	22	62.86
	Class room	12	34.29
	Both time and class room	1	2.86
	Total	35	100
Reason why students need tutorial	For general knowledge	12	34.29
	For exam	2	5.71
	For clarification	21	60
	Total	35	100
Reasons for teachers enthusiasm	For money	1	2.86
	For support	33	94.29
	Obligation	1	2.86
	Total	35	100

General idea about tutorial class	Continue as it is	20	57.14
	Strength it some what	8	22.86
	Strength it highly	4	11.43
	Better if it is on all courses	3	8.57
	Total	35	100

However these students had willing to tutorial class for clarification (60%) and the teachers interest for supporting students (94.29%), there were challenges like lack of sufficient time (62.86%) and lack of class room (34.29%) to these students which can influence their academic achievement. This study in line with the study of [3] which says factors such as school infrastructure, class size, teacher experience and qualifications and availability of instructional materials have emphasized largely in low-income countries.

It is shown that 57.14% of respondents generalized about tutorial class if it is continued as it is and 22.86% of them were responded if it is strengthen somewhat more than the previous. 8.57% of them needs if tutorial class is given on all courses. The present result correlate with study of [2] which says "The school should strengthen and extend the guidance and counseling service, to improve self-confidence among females, especially via assertiveness training, the school must include promotion of gender issues and female support services."

Table 3: Responses from teachers concerning to tutorial class.

	Responses	Frequency	Percent
The reason for teacher willingness to teach tutorial class	Obligation	2	100
	Total	2	100
Time used by a teacher	6-8	1	50
	10-16	1	50
	Total	2	100
Reason for insufficient time use	no free time	2	100
	total	2	100
Teachers' reward for teaching tutorial class	Money	1	50
	Satisfaction	1	50
	Total	2	100
Improvement in students' grade after tutorial class	improved	2	100
	Total	2	100
Challenges faced by teachers during tutorial class	lack of time	2	100
	Total	2	100
Action taken by teacher to minimize the challenges	time arrangement	2	100
	Total	2	100
Step taken by teacher concerning failed student	nothing	1	50
	thought them again	1	50
	Total	2	100
Interest of students in tutorial class	very good	1	50
	good	1	50
	Total	2	100

Support given to the teachers by organization	payment	1	50
	Total	1	50

Conclusion

The results of this study show that female students and teachers of Afan Oromo department showed total interest in the prescribed tutorial classes. Thus, lack of interest is not the factor influencing their low academic performance. However, there were other factors such as time (57.14% of students used 10-16 hours). The remaining students did not have time to participate in the tutorial classes. Similarly, 50% of the teachers used 10-16 hours and 50% out of them were busy. This is due to the time limitation in which tutorial classes were scheduled when both teachers and students were busy with other duties. As a result of this, 100% of the female students realized that teachers did not have sufficient time to teach them. 94.29% of female students believed that the teachers taught them in order to support them; however the great challenge they faced during tutorial class was insufficient time, most of them (57.14%) said that tutorial could be continued.

Recommendation

Based on the result of this research, the authors recommend that tutorial time should be properly managed and maximized in order for the female students to achieve satisfying results at future.

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