Effects of Private Courses on Students’ Mathematics Achievement

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Summary

Introduction

Due to rapid development of science and technology communities today increased the need for qualified people. The level of development of countries becomes proportional to available qualified manpower. Undoubtedly the most important task of the educational institutions is to train qualified manpower. To become qualified and find good job, students are obligate to take university education. Our country, developing and the young population of which is above than the average of world, started to increase the importance given to education and it is obvious that parents put their children's education to the center of their lives. Students and parents, who wish to benefit from educational opportunities at the highest level and take various exams for a good school, a good job and a good future since the first years of elementary education, get into different perspectives.

University entrance examination system is eliminative in Turkey, so the education system produced private courses which are an inevitable a part of it now. In our education system based on examination no matter what the graduation area is students who succeed in maths win faculties they want in this system. Starting from primary school to higher education, in every field of education and instruction, especially mathematics achievement is very important in choosing a job. All the exams (SBS, YGS, LYS, KPSS, ALES) made by Ministry of Education and the OSYM (Student Selection and Placement Center - SSPC) the effect of maths questions is very high to exam scores. Therefore, mathematics is seen to occupy a very important key point for both the existing training of individuals and taking a good education in the future. For this reason, the private courses and private lessons were seen as a solution by the parents. After reviewing the literature, in studies it is seen largely that the functions of private courses are to determine the factors affecting the success of students in the university entrance exams and to identify the different attributes of university entrance examinations. However, the studies about the direct effects of private courses to identify the success of students in lessons are understood to be limited.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of private courses on mathematics achievement of students graduated from high school and preparing for the university exams in private courses. Also to determine the role of private courses on their mathematics achievement and to investigate the relationship between the success and gender, school type, and graduated area.

Methodology

In this study pre-experimental design is used for evaluation of the effect of private courses on mathematics achievement of students graduated from high school and preparing for the university exams in private courses.

This research was conducted in 10 different private courses in the central province of Kahramanmaraş in the 2010-2011 academic years. 1720 high school students participated in the study form the population of the study. After pre- and post-test match, survey and test

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results of 1400 students out of 1720 students were evaluated and these students form the sample group.

In this study, at the beginning of the academic year the personal information form and a maths achievement test formed of 40-questions including the Transition to Higher Education Exam (YGS) curriculum applied as the pre-test, the same test is re-applied to same students before YGS as a math achievement post-test in March. At the end of the study, the data obtained were evaluated using the SPSS 15.0. Data analysis of the t-test, variance analysis and the Tukey test is used for the detection of the groups formed as a result of variance analysis and pre- and post-test results of maths achievement test investigated whether there is a meaningful difference or not. The differences found in the analyses were described with .01 and .05 significance levels.

Findings

According to the results of analyses between pre-and post-test, it is determined that the mathematics scores of the students attending private courses increased. The results of the analyses by gender shows that the post-test scores of both male and female students continuing private courses increased in math test in favor of private courses. Also, according to the type of schools, a result of analyses shows that student's scores who are ongoing to private courses math has increased. As to type of graduation area, the most increase rate has been seen in students of social sciences.

Discussions and Suggestions

According to the results, the private courses affected the students' mathematics achievement positively. Therefore, students may be encouraged to attend a preparatory course. Similar studies can be done in other lessons.