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KEY WORD: FACTORS AFFECTING/ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY

YUPHA KESON : FACTORS AFFECTING LOW LEARNING ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENTS IN BAN BONUMSAI SCHOOL : AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY

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The purpose of this research is to study the factors affecting low learning achievement to students in small elementary school by means of an ethnographic study.

After a six month field work in a school and its surrounding community, it is found that community members are co-operative and supportive as far as school management is concerned. However, their eating habits, hygiene standards, superstitious beliefs, and attitudes towards learning and education, need to be changed or improved.

The findings indicate that the following are factors which brought on students' low achievement test results:

In term of school. The school itself is well-equipped in terms of venue, personnel and budgets which make it possible for educational procedure to be carried out effectively. What needs to be improved is the forming of academic relationship between the school and the community.

As for school Principal and Administration. The principal is capable of coordinating efficiently when the community and other working units are involved. Nevertheless, administration processes including education planning, directing, academic administering, supervising and evaluation of teachers performance, need to be modified.

In terms of teachers. Teachers join the community's activities regularly but their teaching time, teaching behaviour, classroom management, and testing and evaluation methods must be changed.

With relation to students and guardians. Students have a positive attitude towards learning. Their learning behavior, study skills, health and malnourishment should be corrected. Students' guardians are attentive and co-operative when it comes to school matters although they need improvement concerning the way they bring up their children, how they supervise their children's learning and their attitudes towards learning and education.

The most important factor effecting low learning achievement of students in Ban Bonumsai School is the one involving teachers. Their teaching is done only partially. That is to say, they do not teach as much as scheduled; the curriculum is not covered; their teaching behaviour is not satisfactory.

Work planning carried out together and academic administration methods are essential for successful operation. Moral support has a great affect on teachers motivation which, in turn, affects students' achievement test results.

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