

Yupawan Kamtha 2014: The Development of Seventh Grade Students' Conceptions of Atmosphere and Applications in Everyday Daily Life through Context-based learning. Master of Education (Science Education), Major Field: Science Education, Department of Education. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Chatree Failhamta, Ph.D. 179 pages.

The purpose of this research was to develop 7th grade students' conceptions of atmosphere and applications in everyday daily life using context-based learning. The participants were 45 students of a school in Pathumthani Primary Educational Service Area Office 2 who were studying in the first semester of 2013 academic year. The duration of study was one semester long with 2 hours per week. Data sources were a concept test, a test for applying knowledge to real life situation, students' work sheets, students' learning logs, informal interviewing, video recording of teachers' teaching, teachers' log, and interviews of students' parents. The quantitative data were analyzed using frequency, means, percentages, and qualitative data were analyzed by content analysis.

The research findings indicated that after implementing context-based learning, students gradually changed their learning to the correct conceptions under the topics of the component of atmosphere, world climate changing, wind and cloud, atmosphere, rains, the weather forecast, the meaning and the component of atmosphere which increased at 62.2, 48.9, 46.7, 40.0, 35.6 and 33.3 percent, respectively. The students could show their capacities of relating and applying knowledge to real life situation at 77.1 percent. The findings also showed that instructions by using context-based learning should consist of (1) setting focal event should focus on the items which students can show their opinions and prior knowledge. (2) learning task should have many different activities which students can do by themselves. (3) learning key concept students should draw conclusions by themselves. (4) recontextualise should show many different situations and students should discuss together.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature