

Relationship between Elementary Student's Problem Solving Skills and Inquiry Learning Skill Perceptions¹

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Abstract

From past to present people needed to use their high level thinking processes like critical, logical and creative thinking in order to cope with innovations of current era, deal with the problems that they have encountered and make new inventions to ease their life. Problem solving and inquiry learning skills are two of these important high level thinking skills. Because people encounter various problems in their life and people with improved problem solving skills can overcome these problems. Similarly, people who inquire the information that they've encountered instead of accept without thinking, making research may have the opportunity of life long learning. Communities including people with these skills provide a positive effect on development of nations. Thus, activities including methods to improve kids' high level thinking skills and data collection tools are being developed to evaluate these skills in order to determine the current situation of students. In addition, researches towards how and in which level these variables affect each other also being given place. Therefore, aim of this research is determining the relationship between students' problem solving and inquiry learning skill perceptions. Within this aim, "problem solving skills perception scale" and "inquiry learning skills perception scale" are used as data collection tools. 553 students studying in secondary education participated in this research. In analysis of collected data, relationship between variables determined by finding Pearson correlation coefficient. In result of data analysis, a significant and positive relationship between students' inquiry learning skills perceptions and problem solving skills perceptions. Depending on this result, it can be said that both of two variables affect each other in a positive way and individuals with high problem solving skill perceptions also inquiring individuals. Therefore it should be taken into account that using methods and techniques for encouraging students to inquire may have contribute to their development of problem solving skills perceptions in next researches.