



Introduction

Alipato, or the *flying ember*, continues to fulfill its mission: "to disseminate information on trends, developments, and research findings relevant to basic education" (*Alipato*, 1996). Now on its fourth year as a refereed journal, it has consistently encouraged young and seasoned professionals to share the results of their studies which may eventually create an impact on basic education.

This issue features nine articles on research studies that address varied issues in different academic disciplines.

On Communications Arts

"Students' Notes and Their Relation to Comprehension and Recall of Lecture Information" looked into the relations between the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the lecture notes of students and the students' comprehension and recall of lecture information. Two freshmen high school classes in Social Studies were asked to attend a videotaped lecture and to take down notes on what they saw. It was observed the group with some background knowledge on the topic of the lecture had significantly less notes than the control group, but the immediate and delayed post test on comprehension and recall results did not show any significant difference in the mean scores of the two groups. Moreover, it was established that both quantity and quality notes help improve test scores. While quantity notes mattered for post lecture tests that do not provide time for review, quality notes are preferred to prepare for tests that allow time for review.

"Prosesong Pagdulog sa Pagsulat ng Iba't ibang Teksto sa Elementarya" aimed to find out the effectiveness of process approach in writing different kinds of simple discourse in Grade 3. The researcher made lesson plans which were initially validated by three teachers and were later tried-out among 33 pupils. The lessons were then evaluated by both teachers and pupils, using two separate researcher-made questionnaires and a focus group interview. Results showed that the respondents found the lessons using process approach in writing effective because the activities were varied and interesting, the topics were suited to the students' interests, and the lessons prepared gave positive motivation for the students "to enjoy" writing.

On Health Education

"Peer Approach in Developing Resistance Skills on Drugs Among Adolescents" is a qualitative study that aimed "to provide a model of peer approach by exploring the patterns and trends involved in the implementation" in a barangay in Bicol region. To document the program's processes, participant observation was used; audiotapes and field notes were thematically transcribed and analyzed. The findings revealed that "the rich communication culture and relational strategies which characterized the peer classes shaped the dynamics of peer approach, and the peer educators' varied instructional strategies and modeling behavior facilitated the development of peer students' resistance skills in the form of cold shoulder, broken record technique, changing the subject, and saying no without second thought."

On Student Services

“Parental Attachment, Coping Style, and Trait Emotional Self-Efficacy as Antecedents of School Attachment” sought to determine which among parental attachment, coping styles, and trait emotional self-efficacy is the best predictor of school attachment and to find out the distinct characteristics of students with high and low school attachment. Four questionnaires were administered to randomly-selected 146 high school students of a science high school. Multiple linear regression analysis showed that Trait Emotional Self-Efficacy and Planning were the best predictors of school attachment. T-test results revealed that students with high school attachment had higher scores in Maternal Attachment and Trait Emotional Self-efficacy, and tended to use these coping strategies: Seeking Emotional and Instrumental Social Support, Positive Interpretation and Growth, Planning, Humor, and Acceptance. On the other hand, students who have low school attachment tended to use Behavioral Disengagement when stressed.

“Correlates of Career Decisions Among Children of Overseas Filipino Workers” explored the decision making process and career decisions of 341 children of Overseas Filipino Workers through a descriptive survey method using a survey questionnaire and a focus group discussion guide. It aimed to find out the extent of relationship between career decisions and selected internal factors like birth order, academic achievement, expressed interests and motivation, and gender; and external factors like parents’ educational attainment and occupational status. The study revealed that the only factor found to have a significant relationship with the career decisions of the students was academic achievement. Majority decided to pursue college education instead of technical-vocational program or work. The study also noted the importance of career education to help students make wise career decisions.

Environmental Science

“Localization and Institutionalization of Coastal Resource Management Education in the Basic Education Curriculum” mainly aimed to present the processes undertaken, and the output generated, in a sub-project undertaken by Marine Environment and Resource Foundation (MERF) of the University of the Philippines and the Unlimited Professional Development and Technical Enhancement, Inc. (UPDATE) where the writer served as a researcher. This project entailed the design of an integrated curriculum that involved preparation of instructional materials as well as assessment instruments for Grade 6 and First Year high school students. The curriculum was evaluated through students achievement and attitude tests, feedback of teachers, observations done by the school administrators, and interview questionnaires administered to school teachers and administrators. Achievement test results showed that the students gained more knowledge after the implementation of the lesson plans. Attitude test results showed that the positive attitude of Grade 6 pupils at the start was maintained while the attitude of the First Year students improved.

On Mathematics and Technology Use

As the title suggests, "Clarification of Ambiguous Problems: Effects on Problem Solving Ability and Attitude Towards Mathematics" tested the effectiveness of clarified ambiguous problems in developing and improving the problem solving ability and attitude of students in mathematics. It utilized a quasi-experimental design and randomly assigned two heterogeneous sections of first year students from a public high school as experimental and control groups. Pre-post tests on problem-solving ability, an attitude inventory, and the Torrance Test of Creative Thinking were given to both groups. The pretest scores of the 28 matched pairs revealed that the two groups were initially comparable on these measures, while the posttest results revealed that the experimental group performed better in the problem-solving ability test, and its mean score in the attitude inventory is significantly higher than that of the control group.

The last two papers concentrated on how teachers can be helped on technology management.

"Development of Prototype Software for Item Analysis and Item-Banking System for Likert Scales" is about a software developed to facilitate item analysis for Likert scale and to store and retrieve item statements with reliability properties. Statistics to compute the reliability attributes of the items is made using measures of central tendency and variability, discrimination index, item-total correlation, and coefficient alpha. The item analysis software is divided into the following functional modules: data entry for item statements, respondents, and project profile; statistical processing; and reports generator. The software was developed using Visual Basic 6 and Microsoft Access as programming and database management system respectively.

"Detecting and Eliminating Biased Items for Test Reliability and Validity aimed to detect test items which indicate bias between public and private school examinees, and to determine the effect of eliminating biased items on the content and concurrent validity, and internal consistency reliability of the original and the revised versions of the Chemistry Achievement Test. Test scores of 200 junior high school students matched on class section and total score were subjected to differential item functioning analysis using four contingency table methods: the Chi-Square, Distractor Response Analysis, Logistic Regression, and Mantel-Haenszel Statistic. The results for the four methods were compared and findings revealed the presence of biased items in the Chemistry Achievement Test. There was a high degree of correspondence between the Logistic Regression and the Mantel-Haenszel Statistic in identifying biased test items. Likewise, elimination of biased items in the test tended to diminish its content validity, concurrent validity, and internal consistency reliability.

It is hoped that these nine articles will continue to inspire more researchers, teacher writers, and educators to keep ALIPATO's "hot embers" soaring through their scholarly papers.

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