

A Study on the Use of Group Teaching Methods and Utilization of Library Resources for the Success of the Learning and Teaching Process of Junior Secondary School Students.

I.P.D. Illangasingha^{1*} and B.N.G.S. Premarathne²

¹Department of Education, Faculty of Education, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

²Senior Assistant Librarian, Main library, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

**a19276@arts.pdn.ac.lk*

Education plays a vital role in the development of every nation, including Sri Lanka, where junior secondary education serves as a foundation for students' future academic success. This study explores the effectiveness of the group learning method, combined with the use of library resources, in addressing persistent challenges in the Sri Lankan education system, such as weak teacher-student interaction, low student engagement and reliance on passive learning strategies. The research was conducted with 100 junior secondary students and 40 teachers from four selected schools in the Kandy district using a mixed-method approach, including interviews, oral questionnaires, and classroom observations. Initial findings indicated that the conventional lecture-based approach contributed to reduced student participation and lack of critical thinking skills. However, after the introduction of group teaching methods supported by library resources utilization, there was a notable improvement in the classroom dynamics. Students collaborated more effectively in groups, using library resources to gather additional information and enhance their group discussions and presentations. This led to an increase in active learning, development of leadership and research skills, and deeper understanding of subject content. Moreover, the integration of library resources into group activities encouraged students to develop independent learning habits and promoted a reading culture within the schools. Teachers observed increased student motivation and confidence during group tasks, fostering a more interactive learning environment. The study concludes that combining group teaching methods with library resources use boosts student engagement and learning outcomes, making it an effective strategy for junior secondary education in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Group method; Junior secondary grades; Learning and teaching process; Library resources; Student engagement*