Improving Critical Thinking Skills of form five students through 'Model Inquiry'

Parveen Pannirselvam
Student of Tamil department, Sultan Idris Education University,
35900 Tanjong Malim, Perak, Malaysia
email: parveenpannirselvam00@gmail.com

Abstract: The researcher conducted a study on improving critical thinking skills of Form 5 students through 'Model Inquiry'. Students can be encounter with writing difficulties. This study was conducted with two objectives of analyzing the problems faced by Form Five students in their critical thinking. Second objective is improving Critical thinking of form five students through Model Inquiry. Bloom Taxonomy has been used by researcher in this study. The researcher has used fieldwork to conducted this study. The researcher has conducted this study through qualititative and quantitative approach. The researcher has conducted this study in Secondary schools in Alor Gajah District. Two Tamil Teachers and Form Five students were included in this study. The researcher has used pre test, post test and interview to gather information for his study. The information available in this study will help improve critical thinking skills. Through this study it was possible to improve the critical thinking of Form Five students through 'Model Inquiry'.

Keywords: Critical Thinking Skills, Writing skills, Model Inquiry

INTRODUCTION

Approaches to learning and teaching are changing with time. The research-based education system has become very suitable and inevitable in today's times as it helps in learning and teaching. Today, education programs play a major role in raising the standard of education in every country in the world. In this way, the Malaysia Ministry of Education called Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Menengah (KSSM) was created with the aim of producing a student with a research mindset. Research thinking is when one intellectually constructs an idea through thinking skills such as reasoning, using, analyzing, summarizing and evaluating it. Among them, writing skills can be a great exercise to improve a student's research thinking level. In addition, according to Shulman, (1968), inquiry is the search for information to solve a problem, investigate, formulate a hypothesis, frame a study, gather information, and finally give a conclusion. By properly implementing this study, students can easily acquire lifelong learning knowledge and skills.

Background of the study

Researcher got some references regarding critical thinking, Model Inquiry and writing skills based on a number of previous studies. Moreover, researcher also taken some notes based on the information that found from books. Moreover, researcher find a lot of information regarding model inquiry in books because there were only a few studies had made regarding model inquiry. Moreover, this study can enhance critical thinking among students. In addition, it also improve writing skills among Form Five students. The researcher had taken notes on some articeles and among them one article had helped researcher to include Model Inquiry in his research. The article is about to Improve students' critical thinking by Ideological theory. This article was written by K.Muniisvaran on 2019. This research is to improve students critical thinking by using logical terms. Moreover, researcher had been include model

inquiry as one of the strategies to improve critical thinking among students. There are two types of research approaches had been used in this research. They are quantitative and qualitative. The approaches of the study was based on the objectives of the study.
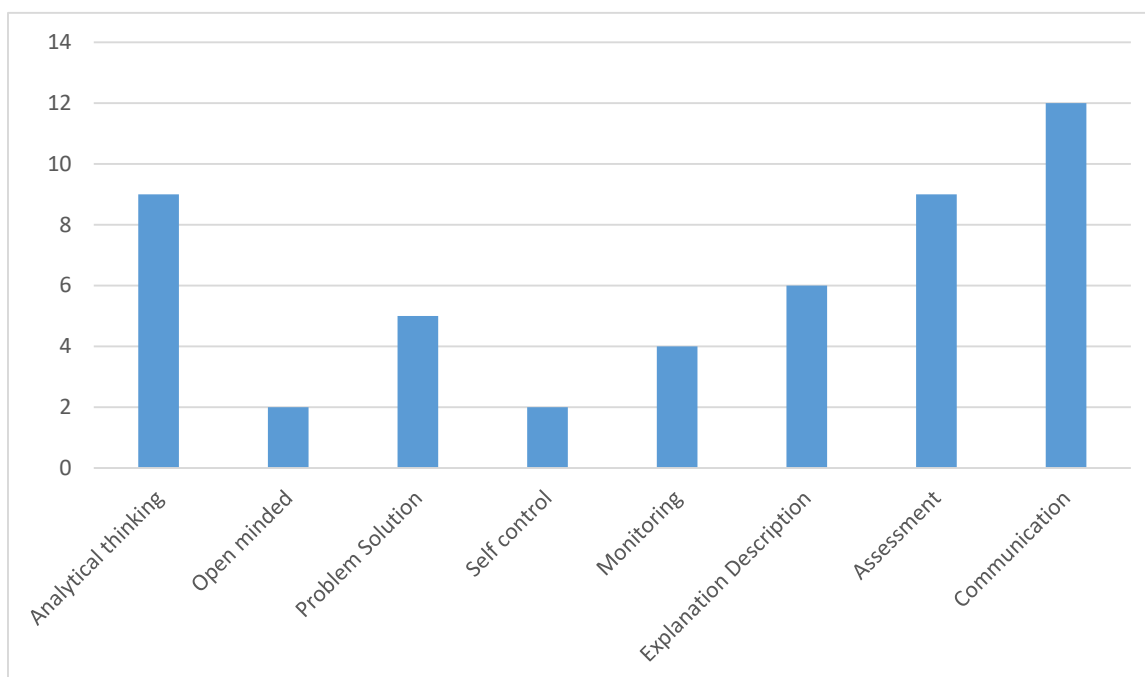
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings from Questionnaire

- **Objective 1: Analyze the problems faced by Form Five students in critical thinking.**

The researcher had been analyze the problems faced by Form five students in critical thinking as first objective. The researcher gonna find out the problems faced by Form Five students in expressing their critical thinking. The researcher had used Descriptional test among students and Interview two tamil teachers as research approaches to find out the problems faced by Form Five students to enhance critical thinking. The researcher divided the Descriptional test into seven components. They are data analysis, observation, argumentation, analysis, Skeptical, Evaluation & Evidence/Source. The researcher had find out that Skeptical, argumentation and think on multiple persepectives is the elements that students scored minimum marks. The graph below shows the average marks scored by students on descriptional test.

Blooms Thinking Concept (HOTS) Aspects	knowledge	Comprehension	Application	Analysis	Synthesis	Evaluation
Data Analysis	15	15	7	8	3	4
Observation	15	15	-	8	-	3
Argumentation	15	15	-	10	7	6
Analysis	15	-	-	12	8	-
Skeptical	15	15	8	7	4	3
Evaluation	15	12	12		6	5
Evidence/Source	15	12	10	8	6	4

- Improve Critical Thinking among Form Five students through Model Inquiry.

The bar chart above shows that more students have shown more initiative in activities such as communication, evaluation and analytical thinking. These activities had improve students idea quality by sharing their views. Moreover, most of the students (12 students) had a large exchange of ideas in their reading section. On the same day the students were given an individual task of explaining the feedback questions. As a result, the discussions took and the relationship between the researchers to students, students to students get clear explanations about the conceptual questions. However 15 students have shared their views on this process.

On the next stage, students' writing evaluation and analytical thinking are observed. Among 15 students, 9 students only were involved in this process. Students were found in fewer numbers with an open mind and self-control. Also, it has been found that many of them do not give importance in this process as the students do not act according to the information but act according to their own opinion. Therefore, only 12 students were selected to evaluate the difference in thinking ability.

CONCLUSION

The study evaluated to increase the Critical thinking ability through writing skills. Moreover, thinking skills through Model Inquiry found many changes in their thinking compared in writing skills. Moreover, the researcher evaluated the development of students' thinking skills through formal evolution. These writing and speaking skills were a series activities that improve student thinking strategies. Moreover.students ask a lot of questions in class and their thinking skills are improved. Apart from that, as students engage themselves in education, they develop the maturity to understand a situation. This is might be turn to a life lesson in the future.

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