

The effect of piano learning on academic performance of students

Abstract:

Human resource development is an important mission of global-society. Three main indicators to measure it are living a long and healthy life, knowledge and quality of life. It is commonly known that parents want their child to participate in extracurricular activities such as music as they believe that it can improve potential, concentration, and discipline. Hence, they encourage their child to engage in music education such as piano. This cross-sectional survey study aimed to look closely into the effect of piano learning on academic performance, taking into account factors, such as motivation, objectives of learning, periods of piano learning, duration of piano learning and practices. These factors are analyzed by using descriptive statistics through IBM SPSS Statistics 27.0.1. The online questionnaire was distributed through social media and to music schools. A total of 200 participants with a mean age of 15.8 years responded. The most common piano learning period is 4-8 years with a frequency of 38%. The mean hours for duration of piano learning and self-practicing are 1.10 hours and 1.20 hour consecutively. Results showed that there is a significant difference between the academic performance of participants before and after piano learning ($<.001$). The relationship between the period of piano learning and the improvement of academic performance is statistically significant ($<.001$). Participants have a moderate score of opinion towards piano learning. Parents and schools should support their children to study piano at an early age and promote their viewpoint toward piano learning for advancing their academic achievement. Governments should promote equal access to piano learning for children in every socioeconomic status by setting a policy indicator for all schools to provide piano courses for student development activities in order to ensure the quality of future human capital for nation building.

Keywords: piano learning, duration of piano practice, academic performance, human development