

# **A Study of the Students' Interest and Their Academic Achievement in Learning Science at the Middle School Level**

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## **Abstract**

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the students' interest and their academic achievement in science at the middle school level. The design for this study was the descriptive research design. Five schools in Paung Township were randomly selected by using cluster sampling technique as the sample. So the participants in this study were all of Grade Eight students from the selected schools. The instruments used for this study were students' interest questionnaire which consisted of 5-point Likert-scale items and students' priority choice test item that was based on the Rothwell-Miller Interest Blank technique and students' academic achievement test that was based on the Grade Eight general science textbook from chapter (2) to (5). The descriptive statistics was used to find out and analyze students' interest in the different topics of general science. Independent samples "t" test was used to find out the difference in the academic achievement of students who were interested in science and those who were not, and in interest and academic achievement on different topics by gender. According to the results, there were significant differences in the academic achievement of students who were interested in science and those who were not, and in interest and academic achievement on the different topics by gender. Moreover, Pearson's correlation coefficient was computed to interpret the relationship between interest and academic achievement. The result showed that students' interest was positively related with their academic achievement in learning science.

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