

# The Study of Conservation Concepts of Primary School Children

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the level of conservation concepts of primary school children. Conservation tests from Piagetian tests reported by National Foundation for Educational Research were modified into Myanmar version and used as instruments to measure the conservation concepts of primary school children. A total of 180 primary school children from three schools participated in this study. The analyzed results showed that selected children are more able to grasp the concept of conservation of number than others. Some of the primary school children had difficulties to conserve weight, volume, and length. In the analysis by age the result stated that, the older the children, the higher the abilities of conservation improve. With regard to the whole conservation test, the results revealed that the age of children was significantly related with the development of conservation concepts of primary children. The result of t-test showed that there were significant differences in the understanding of all conservation tests between preoperational and concrete operational stages. The students who had preschool and summer school trainings got higher degree in all six kinds of conservation concepts than students without of those. So, students' abilities in conservation depended on their previous preschool and summer school trainings and experiences. There were 32 students who were identified as strong conservers in all conservation tests in this study. They had preschool and summer school training experiences. They were also at the concrete operational stage. Abilities such as understanding of conservation come not only from new patterns of mental organization but also from culturally defined personal experience with the physical world. Thus, this study may be contributed to the outstanding teachers and educators to make more meaningful learning activities connected with the children's real life situations.

**Key words:** conservation; conservation of liquid; conservation of solid; conservation of weight; conservation of volume; conservation of number; conservation of length.

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