

Abstract

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Project Title : Effects of External Rewards and Self – efficacy on Students' Intrinsic Motivation

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Objectives : This research examined the effects of external rewards, money and positive feedback with adults' non-controlling guidance, and the interaction effects between types of external reward and levels of self-efficacy on students' intrinsic motivation

Methodology : An experiment was conducted with 96 fifth graders and a multicolor – block arrangement in containers of different sizes was used as an experimental activity. Generalized randomized block design was applied, with types of external reward and levels of self-efficacy as independent variables. Students' intrinsic motivation was measured by both questionnaire and their attention in the games.

Results : External rewards did not undermine intrinsic motivation. Further, students' intrinsic motivation measured by an attitudinal scale during free – choice period in three conditions, monetary reward, positive feedback, and control group was not significantly different. However, students who received positive feedback showed higher attention on the game than the other two groups. Students with high self – efficacy had more fun in the game than the low.

Suggestions : The findings suggest that having fun and challenging experience is a reward in itself. No other reward is needed. If reward is given, it should be contingent with performance to inform about the person's competence. Positive feedback with non – controlling guidance seems to be adequate and practical.

Key words : Intrinsic motivation, external rewards, positive feedback, monetary reward, self - efficacy