THE EFFECTS OF INQUIRY METHOD ON LEARNING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHEMISTRY
OF THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS AT DAMPHU HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL,
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This study was an experimental research, two groups pretest – posttest design. The purpose of this research was to study the effect of inquiry method as a supplementing strategy on the academic achievement of higher secondary school students in chemistry. This study also intended to assess the students’ learning satisfaction after using inquiry method in teaching and learning of chemistry. Seventy six students were subjects in the study. They were divided into the experimental and control groups. Data were collected by using self-administered questionnaire and achievement test. Descriptive statistics and independent samples t-test were used to analyze data.

The t-test result showed that in the pretest the calculated 2 tailed t-value was 0.201 which was higher than the significant t value 0.05 (t < 0.05). In the post-test, the calculated 2 tailed t-value was 0.00 which was lower than the significant t value of 0.05 (t < 0.05). The experimental group gained higher mean scores than that of the control group.
It was apparent from the data analysis that there was increase in the achievement level of students in experimental group at the end of the research study using inquiry method. From the self administered questionnaire, result showed that when inquiry method was integrated as a supplementary strategy to teaching chemistry, student displayed the high level of learning satisfaction ($\bar{x} = 4.37$).

Based on the study result, further studies should examine the correlation between students' interest in science and their understanding of science. To understand the true effect of this instructional method and to get better result further research should be done over an extended time period. It would also be interesting to understand the effect of using this instructional method in conjunction with other techniques intended to promote student ownership for learning. It is recommended that in any study of methods, student factors such as internal motivation, interest in topics, prior experiences with instructional methods, and personal learning styles should also be considered to fully understand how they influence the students' academic achievement. The teachers must initiate to integrate inquiry method in their lessons to make it interesting and enjoyable to bring positive change in students' learning behaviors, and to enhance students' learning.