Impact of Gender and Subject on the Creativity Level of High and Low Achievers

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The aim of the study was to find out effect of gender and subject on the creativity level of students. Furthermore it was aimed at finding out differences in creativity level between high and low achievers. Sample (N=154) consisted of BS Hons’ students of University of Sargodha. The sample was comprised of 76 high achievers and 78 low achievers and almost equal number of girls (n=76) and boys (n =78). Abedi Creativity Test was used to measure creativity level of University undergraduates. On the basis of Cumulative grade point averages (CGPA) of previous semesters (IV & VI), high and low achievers were selected as the participants of the study. Results have revealed that there was no significant effect of gender and subject of the students on the total score of creativity (p> .05) while it was revealed that pure science students scored high on originality as compared to arts students while no differences were found on other three subscales of creativity. Findings revealed that high achievers were more creative as compared to the low achievers (p < .05). Results of the current study might help in enhancing knowledge about association between creativity and academic achievement as well as it might be applicable on the educational settings.

Keywords: Creativity, High achievers, Low achievers

Creativity is a procedure to create new, innovative, unique and novel things or ideas but to do this a lot of hard work, effort, and passion is needed (Amabile, 1996; Csikszentmihalyi, 1996; Simonton, 1997). Researchers suggested that creativity is the production of novel, appropriate ideas in any domain of human activity from science to arts, to education, to business or to everyday life (Pryce, 2005). According to the Psychoanalytical Theory of Creativity, people become creative when they face difficult circumstances. Similarly Humanistic theory states that man strives to fulfill his six basic needs and individuals sequentially move towards the self actualization, which help them to express themselves in creative way. The followers of this theory state that creativity is not dependent upon environment because the ability to self-actualize is enough for creativity (Rzadkiewicz, 2009). Creativity and different factors influencing on it is the phenomena of vital importance in current situation especially in educational settings. Current study is aimed at finding out effect of gender and subject on the creativity level of students of university students.

Presently creativity has been explored with relevance to academic achievement. Creativity varies from individual to individual on the basis of different factors. It is also said that in academic setting level of creativity is different in high and low achievers. Low achievers students are those who have poor academic record, have low self efficacy, lower self motivation, no goal directed behavior, and have negative attitude towards school and teachers (Reis & McCoach, 2000). While high achievers students are those who achieve high marks or good grades, these students have good time management skills and are well disciplined, well memorization ability, attentive and enjoy with age fellows (Kingore, 2004). Struthers, Menec, Schonwetter and