

How do high school students explain factors that affect their critical thinking abilities?



References



Video presentation

Authors *Mai Khanh (Luna) Tran (Concordia International School Hanoi)*
maikhanh.tran@concordiahanoi.org

Mentor *Dr. Anay Nangalia (St. Hilda's College, Oxford University)*

Affiliations *Concordia International School Hanoi, Lien Ha High School, Lumiere Education*

Objectives

This study aims to offer detailed insights into how high school students perceive their critical thinking development, increasing educators' understandings of student perspectives.

Introduction

- Critical thinking is a national and global educational priority, emphasized in recent Vietnamese education reforms
- Most existing CT research is quantitative, identifying correlations but not explaining why or how factors influence CT
- High school students are underrepresented despite experiencing strong family and school influences

Methodology

Mixed-methods approach

- Quantitative: Aptitude Online Critical Thinking Test (171 students)
- Qualitative: 30-mins interview (16 students)

Purposive sampling:

- School strata (International and Public)
- Gender (M and F)
- Age (9th and 10th graders)

Individual-level Factors	Family-level Factors	School-level Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading abilities • Nonacademic classes • Playing musical instruments • Social media usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographics • Family education • Personality • Birth order • Siblings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching methods • Academic classes • Assessment methods

Figure 1: Categorized factors affecting critical thinking abilities

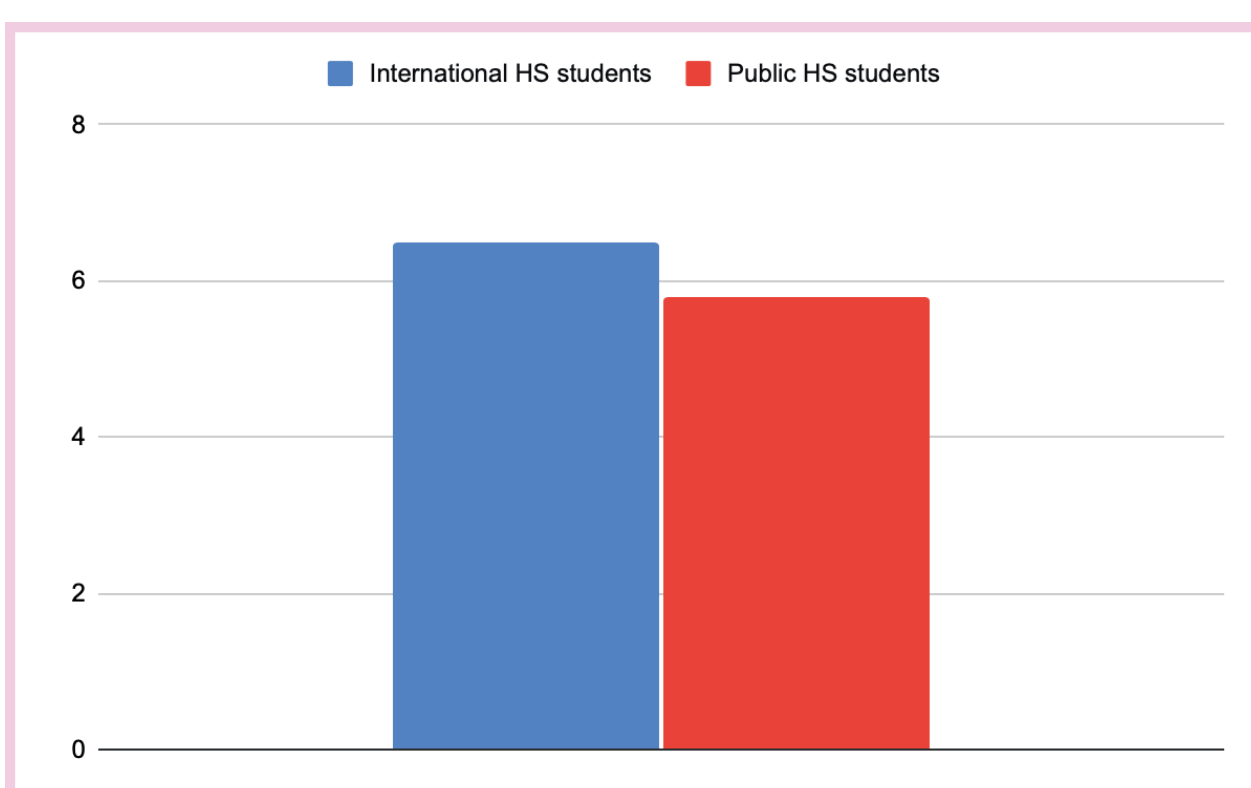


Figure 2: Average CT score of international and public hs students

Next Steps

- Larger sample size and more schools for generalization
- More reliable CT test
- Examine the impact of being an only child on CT development
- Find practical ways for educators to incorporate results into curriculums

Results

- Active engagement is essential for CT development
- Extracurricular activities influence CT depending on type
- Social media can broaden or hinder CT depending on usage
- Everyday family interactions support CT
- Engaging teaching styles promotes participation and deeper thinking
- Open-ended assessments are more effective than memorization-based
- Playing musical instruments don't support CT