Effects of a Student-Centered Approach to Assessment on Students' Attitudes towards 'Applied Statistics' Course

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Abstract : The purpose of this cross sectional study was to investigate the effectiveness of teaching and learning Statistics from a student centered perspective in higher education institutions. Statistics education has emphasized the application of tangible and interesting examples in order to motivate students learning about statistical concepts. Participants in this study were 112 bachelor students enrolled in the 'Applied Statistics' course in Sports University of Tirana. Experimental group students received a student-centered teaching approach; Control group students received an instructor-centered teaching approach. This study found student-centered approach student group had statistically significantly higher assessments scores (52.1 ± 18.9) at the end of the evaluation compared to instructor-centered approach student group (61.8 ± 16.4), (t (108) = 2.848, p = 0.005). Results concluded that student-centered perspective can improve student positive attitude to statistical methods and to motivate project work. Therefore, findings of this study may be very useful to the higher education institutions to establish their learning strategies especially for courses related to Statistics.

Keywords : student-centered, instructor-centered, course assessment, learning outcomes, applied statistics
Conference Title : ICAEA 2017 : International Conference on Aerobic Exercise and Anxiety
Conference Location : Madrid, Spain
Conference Dates : September 11-12, 2017