STUDY OF GROUP INTERACTIONS AND THE EFFECT ON STUDENT MOTIVATION AND MORALE

A Dissertation

by

Martha J. Beasley

Submitted to the Graduate School
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in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
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ABSTRACT

STUDY OF GROUP INTERACTIONS AND THE EFFECT ON STUDENT MOTIVATION AND MORALE (August, 1997)

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This study examined the effects of individual and group motivation and morale within a specific experiential education program. Subjects included 103 eighth grade students in control and treatment groups. Two forms of measurement were administered to all subjects as a pretest, posttest 1, and posttest 2. Multivariate analyses of covariance were used to analyze the data from both measurements. Results of the study failed to generate many significant differences; however, the observational methodology indicated the application of the experiential-education program's objectives and goals in the treatment. The summary discussed the possibilities of an existing systemic thread throughout the treatment system, creating initial differences between the two groups in specific areas. Recommendations included the consideration of lengthening the program, alternative data collecting designs, and continued research to investigate the elements and components that provide the success of these programs and how to incorporate them into what Dewey would describe as quality classroom experiences.