

Introduction

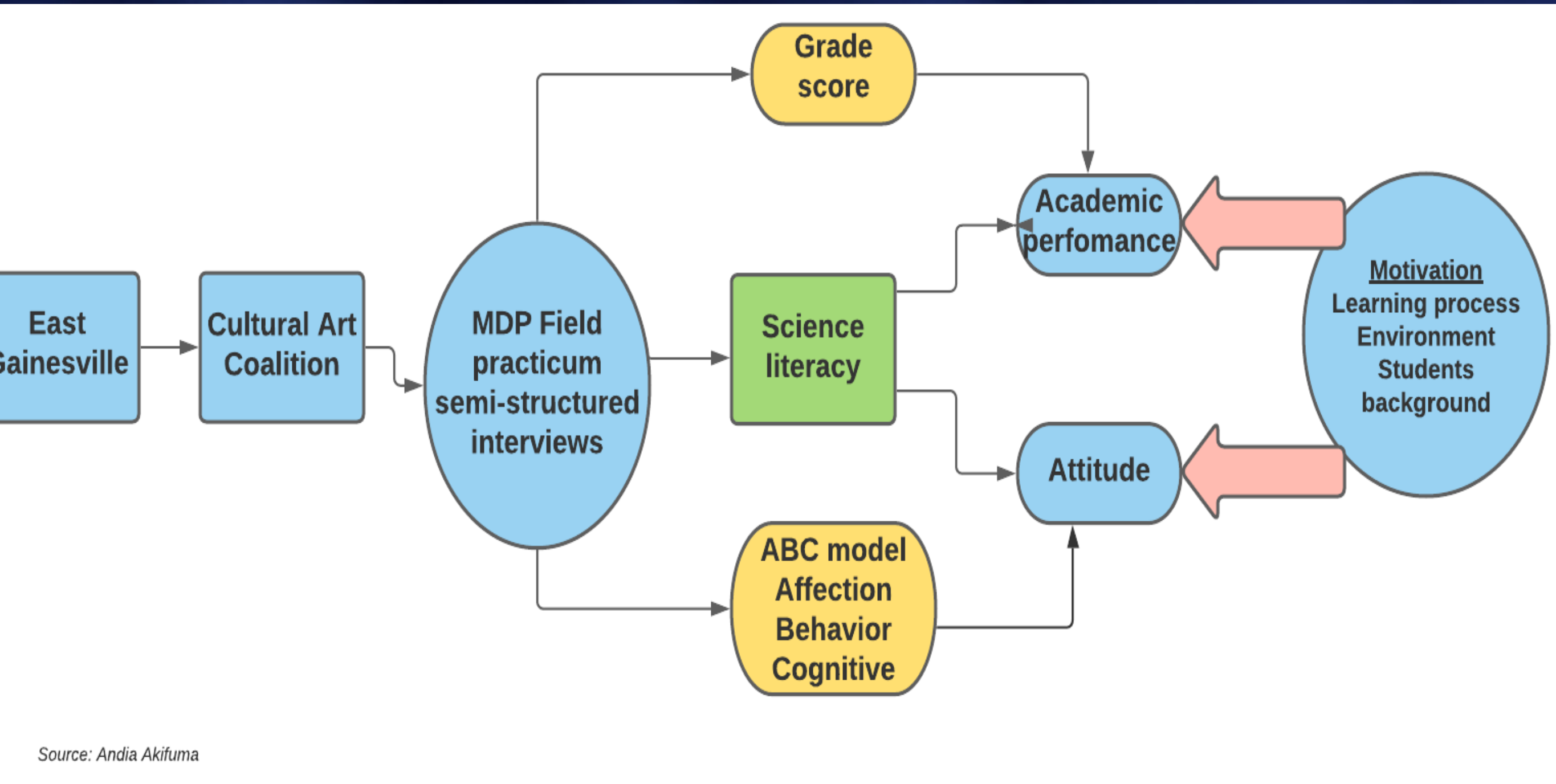


- Performance gaps exist between Black and White students in Gainesville schools. To address this gap, Cultural Arts Coalition (CAC) sponsors an after-school Science Club (SC) to encourage learners to love and learn science in a fun manner.
- There arose a need to assess the program dimensions and its effectiveness among participants.
- Questions of when to enroll, how to run, what teaching materials to use, what to expect and who to involve are some of the uncertain queries that need answers for many after-school programs.
- Practicum aimed to provide CAC with the first evaluation study of their SC.

Objectives

- Enhanced understanding of how the SC affected students' attitude towards science.
- Generate information on the science performance among participants.
- Greater understanding of how different factors have influenced the perception and participation of science

Conceptual Framework



Method

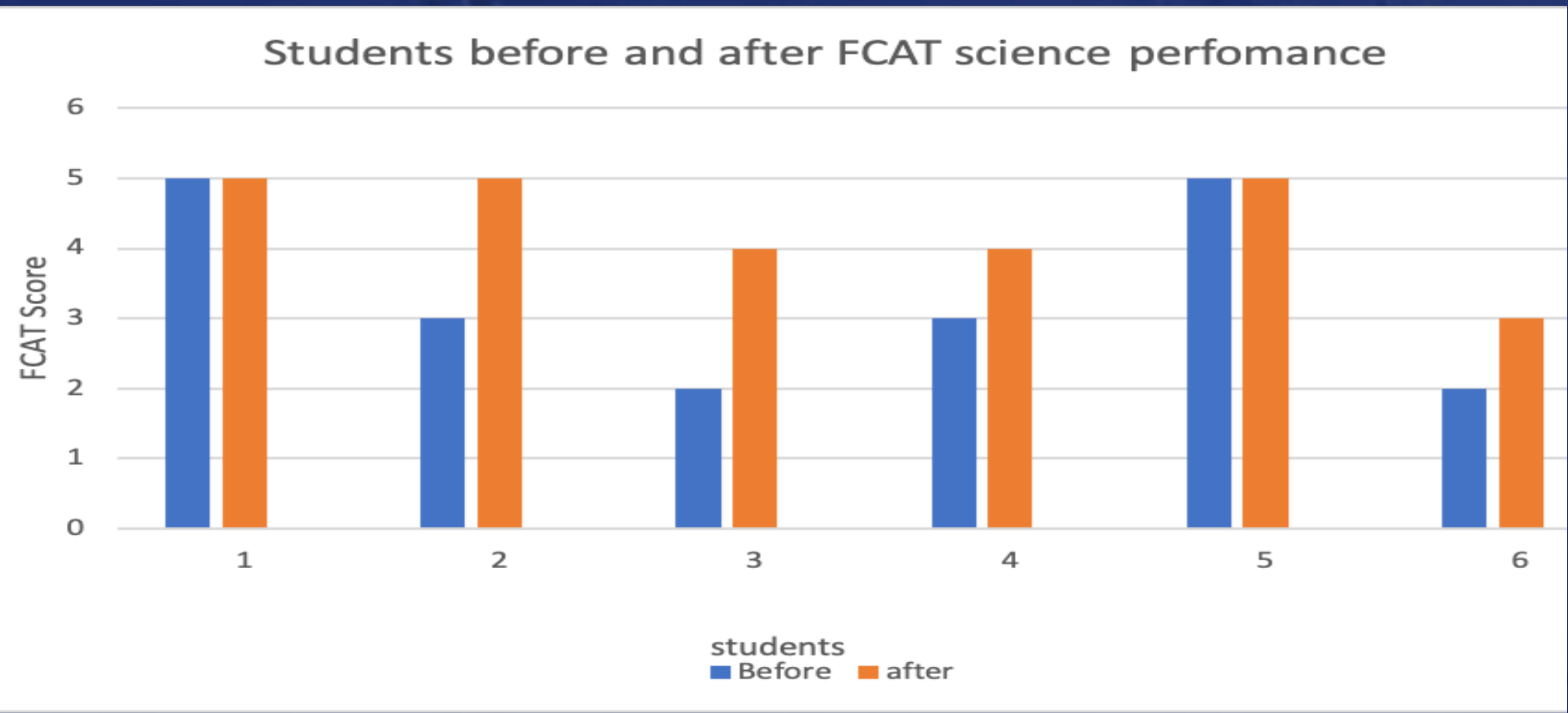
- Using an appreciative inquiry approach
- Semi-structured phone interviews
- Content analysis & measures of central tendency

Category	Male	Female	Total
Student.	6	0	6
Parents	3	5	8
Volunteers	5	7	12
CAC staff	0	2	2
Administrato.	1	0	1

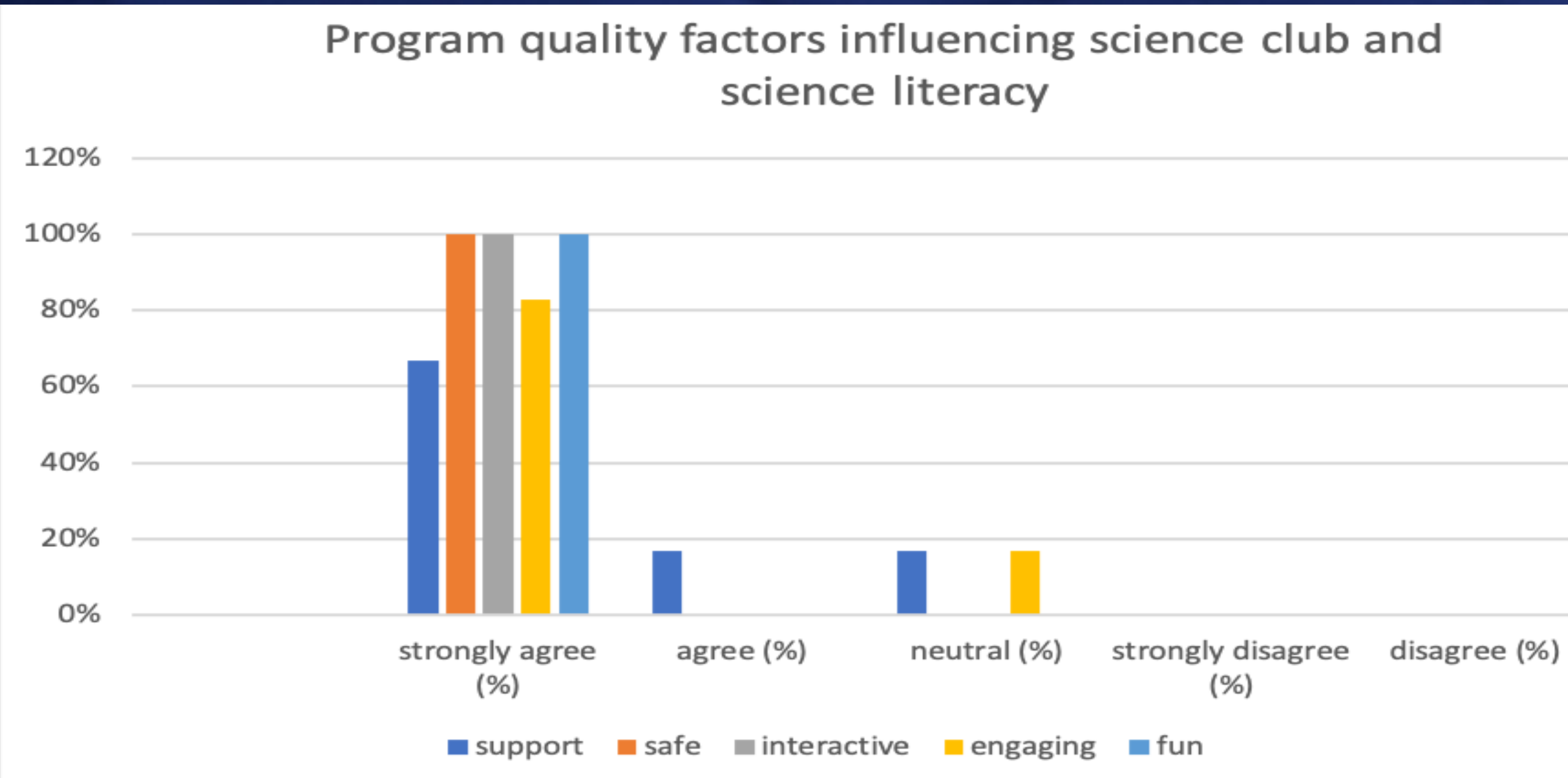


Results

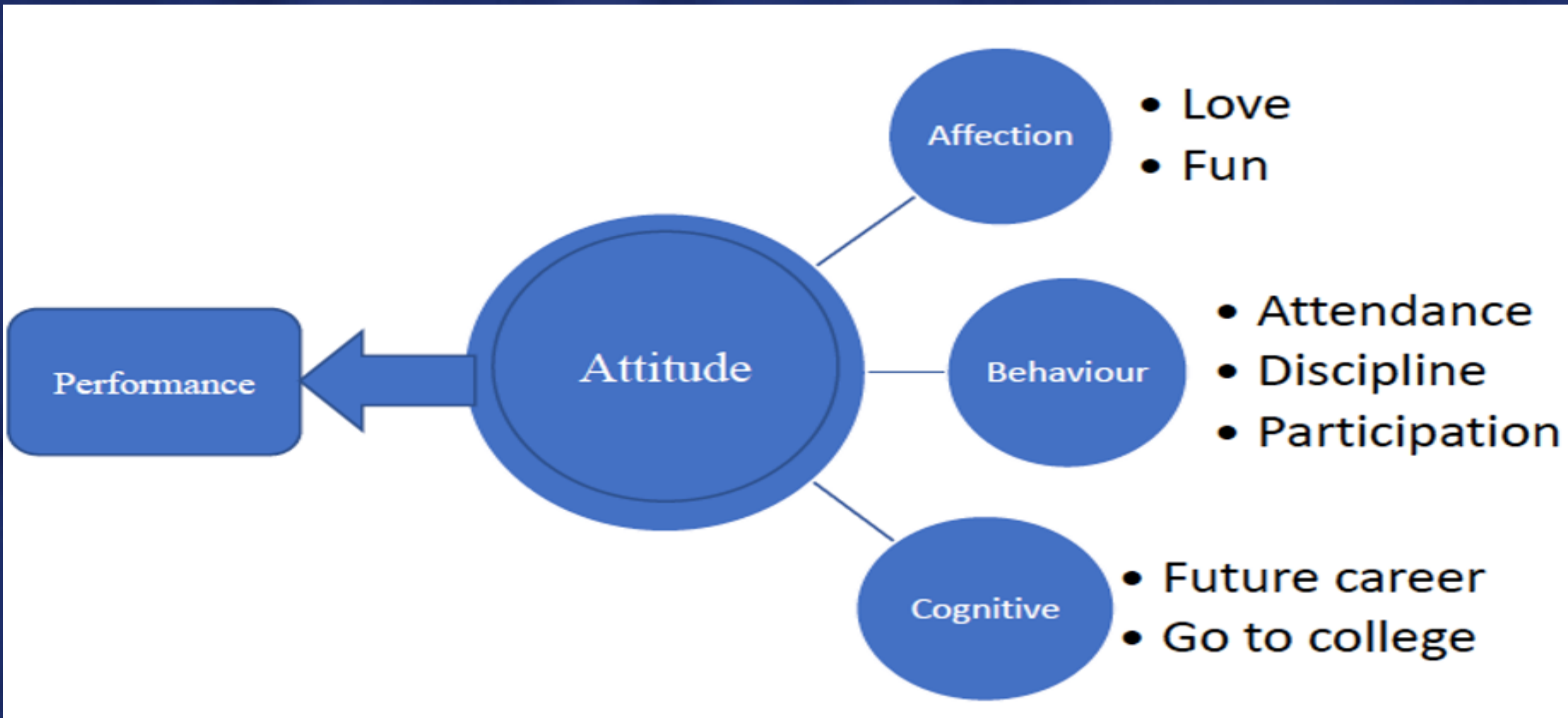
- Most of the students and parents reported an improvement in the science performance as seen in the FCAT scores.
- The figure below shows the self reported students FCAT scores prior and after attending the SC.



Per the experiences of the participants, a majority of students seemed to strongly agree that the program provided supportive, interactive, fun, engaging, and safe opportunities that encouraged science learning and mastery



Science Performance and Attitude



- The data suggested that there appears to be a positive correlation between attitude towards science and performance.
- Improved performance was influenced by positive attitude.
- The manifestation of attitude was in three dimensions namely: affection, behavior and cognitive, which seemed to influence the student's performance in various ways. Example, positive attitude was manifested through improved attendance leading to increased time spent in class, and improved performance.

Conclusion

- The SC has contributed to the students having a positive attitude towards science and improved academic performance.
- Students' academic behavior improves through reduced absenteeism and increased participation and engagement in classes; their overall academic performance in other subjects may also improve.
- As primary beneficiaries of the SC, the students are motivated by a program that allows and offers them an interactive space to learn science in a fun manner

Limitation

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, interviews were conducted by phone and a lower number of participants could be reached than originally anticipated

Acknowledgement

- Cultural Art Coalition: Ms. Nkwanda and Ms. Destiny
- Centre of African Studies
- Centre of Latin American Studies
- MDP –Dr. Galloway and Dr. Noss
- My committee: Dr. Renata, Dr. Schmink and Dr. Leslie
- Cohort 10
- My Family
- God