ATTITUDE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PHYSICS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigated the influence of attitude on senior secondary school students' academic performance in physics in Nigeria. Congruity theory was its theoretical framework and Expost-Facto and Co relational research designs were adopted for the study. The populations of the study were all senior secondary school three (SSSIII) students who had taken physics in the 2012/2013 academic session. Out of total population of 3271 SSSIII, 172 were randomly selected. Students' Physics Attitude Questionnaire (SPAQ) and Students' Physics Performance Test (SPPT) were administered on the selected students. Frequencies and percentages were used to determine students' attitude and their level of academic performance, the independent t-test was used to determine differences in attitude and academic performance between male and female students while the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) was used to determine the relationship between attitude and academic performance. The result of these analyses showed that; students had low level academic performance; positive attitude towards physics; significant gender difference in academic performance in favour of the male students. There was no significant gender difference in attitude, and there was significant positive correlation between students' attitude and their academic performance in physics with value($r = 0.013$, $P < 0.05$). It is recommended among others that government, teachers, parents and guardians should ensure that boys and girls are given equal educational opportunities without discrimination including choose of subjects.

Keywords: 1. Attitude to Physics 2. Academic Performance in Physics, 3. Gender and attitude to Physics, 4. Gender and academic performance in Physics

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