

Attitudes of Chemistry Undergraduate Students towards Mathematics at the UWI, Cave Hill Campus

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Mathematics is core to all sciences, yet many science students can be heard echoing a general dislike for Mathematics and Mathematics-related topics. This study was conducted to determine the attitudes of Chemistry undergraduates toward Mathematics at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. The questionnaire used in the study consisted of the Martha Tapia Attitude toward Mathematics scale which measured four domains: motivation, value, self-confidence and enjoyment. There were 124 students in the actual study. The data collected were tested and analyzed using SPSS V 18. Descriptive frequencies, independent t-test and one-way ANOVA analysis at a confidence level of 0.05 were carried out. The study highlighted that the overall Chemistry undergraduates' attitudes toward Mathematics were moderate however, there was no statistically significant differences based on their sex or level of study. Within the four domains most persons had a good level of value for Mathematics but the majority moderately enjoyed Mathematics, were motivated and had moderate self-confidence. There were no significant differences in these four domains based on sex or level of study. It is recommended that Chemistry lecturers can play a role in improving the attitudes of their students towards Mathematics.

Keywords: Mathematics, Chemistry, attitude, gender, level of study

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