

Investigation of the Influence of Student's Characteristics on Mathematics Achievement in Junior Secondary School in Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract : This current study investigated students' characteristics as factors that influence Mathematics Achievement of junior secondary school students. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The population of the study was one hundred and twenty-three (123) JSS students of secondary schools in Ibadan North Local Government in Oyo State. A Mathematics achievement test and three questionnaires on student's self-efficacy belief, attitude, and learning style were the instruments used. Prior to the administration of the constructed mathematics achievement test, 100-item mathematics was subjected to the expert review, and items analysis was carried out. Fifty items were retained. The Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficients of the instruments were 0.71, 0.76, and 0.83, respectively. Collected data were analysed using the frequency count, percentages, mean, standard deviation, and Path Analysis in Amos SPSS Version 20. Students characteristics: gender, age, self-efficacy, attitude and learning style had positive direct effects on students' achievement in Mathematics as indicated by their respective beta weights ($\beta = 0.36, 0.203, 0.92, 0.079, 0.69$ $p < 0.05$). Consequently, the study concluded that student's characteristics (Age, gender, and learning style) explained a significant part of the variability in students' achievement in Mathematics.

Keywords : mathematics achievement, students' characteristics, junior secondary school, Ibadan

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