

Physics Motivation and Research: Understanding the 21st Century Learners of Today

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Abstract : Motivation and research are significant determinants of a student's success in the school and in future careers. This study aimed to give a picture of the physics motivation of students in a tertiary level institution, as well as their research area and working preference, to create a picture of the nature of the representative youths of today. It was found that male students have higher motivation than female students in all components of motivation with intrinsic motivation leading the six components of motivation. In addition, male students ($M = 4.27$; $SD = 0.74$) were found to have significantly higher motivation as compared to female students ($M = 3.77$; $SD = 0.89$) with a computed $t(64)$ value of 2.41 with $p < 0.05$ and Cohen's d of 0.61. The students' preference to work in groups of three rather than working individually suggests that students of the batch have small working groups that they depend on rather than working alone. The majority of the students also preferred conducting studies on the social sciences.

Keywords : motivation, physics, research, physics motivation, physics education, Philippines

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