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Barriers to the Study of Scientific Subjects and Level of Knowledge of Basic Chemistry

ADULT LEARNERS' CASE STUDY

Adult Learner's Case Study N. 4:

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Description of the Case Study

Reasons of the decision not to continue studying scientific subjects: *I had no financial possibility to pay for my university tuition*

Main difficulties in scientific subject learning at school: *Poor level of teaching*

Self evaluation of knowledge of chemistry: *Poor*

Evaluation of the scientific information provided by the media: *I get the information I need from libraries, internet or friends. No, mass media does not provide access to suitable scientific information (particularly on chemistry) - to some extent the specialized information on particular subjects may be regarded as an exception.*

Perception of the word "Chemical": *"chemical" → matter*

Result of the basic chemistry test: *If you melt 5 grams of salt in 100 grams of water, the solution obtained will weigh: 105 grams. Because $5g + 100g = 105g$. We sometimes perceive the presence of some substances through the sense of smell, as they give off a characteristic scent. Do you think it is made of material or immaterial particles? (Please justify your answer). Material (microscopic particles). Can you think of an example of a pure substance in solid state? Nickel (Ni). Can you think of an example of a pure substance in liquid state? Mercury (Hg). Can you think of an example of a pure substance in gaseous state? Hydrogen (H_2)*