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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. 2:

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Description of the Case Study

Reasons of the decision not to continue studying scientific subjects: *At this age I was not exactly aware about my prospective development*

Main difficulties in scientific subject learning at school: *There was no specialized chemistry lab at the school in which I studied; the subject was taught in a poor way; progress check and assessment were on a very low level.*

Self evaluation of knowledge of chemistry: *Satisfactory for the work I do and my hobbies and interests*

Evaluation of the scientific information provided by the media: *I fill up my scientific interests via internet. The cyber space provides everything to meet my inquiry; public media do not provide access to relevant and understandable information; they are focused on people's likes and follow the policy of their PR managers. This is why novel developments and new discoveries/ inventions rarely find place in their features*

Perception of the word "Chemical": *I associate it with the interaction of different type of matter (not physically*

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 - Nothing disappears in nature; much less the mass of substances. 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). Scents/odours/aromas are the product of volatile particles discharged by substances which are perceived by certain olfactory receptors. This process is very important for our taste perception too as both senses are interrelated. Can you think of an example of a pure substance in solid state? Diamond. Can you think of an example of a pure substance in liquid state? No. Can you think of an example of a pure substance in gaseous state? Water (steam)*