

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

ADULT LEARNERS' CASE STUDY

Adult Learner's Case Study N.: 6

Name: PA, Female, Age 28, Zakynthos island, Accountant

Description of the Case Study

Reasons of the decision not to continue studying scientific subjects: *Liking for mathematics and finance, dislike for physics and chemistry*

Main difficulties in scientific subject learning at school: *Had to learn many things by heart without understanding of concepts.*

Self evaluation of knowledge of chemistry: *Poor*

Evaluation of the scientific information provided by the media: *She has difficulties understanding scientific information provided by the media and there is a need to resort to scientists for clarification.*

Perception of the word "Chemical": *The word "Chemical" is associated with somebody who does experiments, with the chemistry course and with chemistry teachers.*

Result of the basic chemistry test: *The weight of solution is between 100 and 105 grams, owing to dissolution. The salt is dissolved and afterwards it does not have the same weight.*

The characteristic scent is made of material particles, but she cannot provide a logical explanation for the phenomenon.

She can not refer any solid pure substance.

As an example of a pure substance in the liquid state, she referred to chlorine, and various toxics in liquid form

As an example of a pure substance in gaseous state, she referred to carbon monoxide, or to carbon dioxide.