

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Incorporating the Historical Stories' [sic] of Scientists and Students' Interest, Intrinsic Motivation and Academic Performance in a Sixth Form Physics Class Located in Trinidad and Tobago

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This study investigated low levels of interest, intrinsic motivation in learning physics, perception of the nature of science (NOS), and academic performance in Sixth Form physics students at a secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through a unit of work administered to students, which incorporated the historical stories of scientists. Analysis of the students' pre- and post-test scores indicated that the intervention had the greatest impact on the students' views of NOS, and that although there was an increase in interest, it had little impact on their intrinsic motivation.

Keywords: Physics education; Secondary school students; Student attitudes; Academic achievement; Student motivation; History of physics; Scientists; Biographies; Case studies; Trinidad and Tobago.