

Performance of Senior Secondary School Science Students in Aptitude Test: The Role of Student Verbal and Numerical Abilities

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Aptitude tests measure students' overall performance across a broad range of mental capabilities. This study therefore investigated the role of students' verbal and numerical abilities in students' performance on aptitude tests. Two hundred Senior Secondary School Science Students participated in the study. Three validated research instruments were used to collect data. Numerical and verbal abilities combined together to account for 38.8% of the total variance in student performance in the aptitude test ($R^2 = 0.388$, $p < 0.05$). The percentage is significant. Thus, for students to perform well in the general aptitude test, they need to have high numerical and verbal abilities. There is no significant difference between male and female students' performance in verbal ability, numerical ability and general aptitude tests. This study provides an empiricallybased suggestion for students to develop high verbal and numerical skills in order to do well in aptitude test. The findings from this study also imply that verbal and numerical ability tests can be validated using a good aptitude test.

Keywords: verbal ability test, numerical ability test, general aptitude test, mathematics, gender