COMPARATIVE STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN THEORY AND PRACTICAL COURSES IN FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ZARIA, KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the academic performance of agricultural education NCE II students in theory and practical courses in Federal College of Education, Zaria using 78 students NCE II during 2015/2016 academic session. The class comprised of 50 male and 28 female students. The study had 4 specific objectives, 4 research questions and 4 null hypotheses as guide. The study was conducted using pre-test, post-test quasi- experimental design while multiple choice test consisting of 40 items achievement Test in Agricultural Science (ATAS) and systematic design procedure for practicals were used for data collection. Results indicated significant ($p \leq 0.05$) difference in theory course between the pre-test and post-test academic performance of the students ($3.3 > 1.96$) and in practical course ($5.0 > 1.96$). There was also significant ($p \leq 0.05$) difference between the academic performance of the students in both theory and practical courses ($5.0 > 1.96$). On gender performance, there was no significant difference ($p \leq 0.05$) between male and female students ($1.6 < 1.96$ and $1.3 < 1.96$) in theory and practical courses. The result indicated that gender (male and female) is not a strong factor in the performance of NCE II students in agricultural education. Therefore, lecturers should follow each theoretical lesson with practical demonstration for effective teaching and learning amongst students in colleges of education.