##### University Students’ Understanding of Function Notions: An Evaluative Study

***Abstract***

*Many students who conventionally struggle with basic aspects of mathematics have little or no concept of function as an important unifying idea. Given this evidence, it is apposite that higher institutions assess their newly recruited students on basic mathematical knowledge before the actual classes are put in effect. To explore this perspective a non-experimental exploratory study was conducted on freshmen mathematics majoring students (n=100) from a public university and freshmen engineering students (n=73) from a non-profit making technology institute enlisting students under tight criteria. Both groups were required to write answers on a test utterly committed to the function notions. However, they demonstrated below-average performance in all of the problems. Inferential statistics were also used to study trends between the two groups. The results, nonetheless, indicated that the engineering students enlisted under tight criteria outperformed their mathematics major counterparts in all of the ten items significantly. Also, qualitative data were collected from the student solution process of the test items. The analysis of the solution processes evidenced students’ feeble background on the basics of function notions.*

***Keywords****: Function; Domain; Range; Graph sketching.*