

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AN INVESTIGATION INTO IMPLICATIONS OF ENROLLING
STUDENTS WITHOUT TECHNICAL BACKGROUND INTO
TECHNICAL COURSES AT BULAWAYO POLYTECHNIC.

BY

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on establishing the implications of enrolling students who did not do Technical subjects at secondary school who were enrolled at Bulawayo Polytechnic.

To carry out the study questionnaires were administered to lecturers and students from the Engineering Divisions namely Mechanical Engineering, Automotive Engineering, Civil and Construction Engineering.

The Researcher also had an opportunity to interview two Heads of Divisions from Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering.

The study found out that from the sample, the bulk of the students who responded to the questionnaire did not do technical subjects at secondary school. Of the students who did technical subjects at secondary school they indicated that there was a link between the technical subjects that they did at school and the current courses they are doing at College.

The study also found that students who did technical subjects performed better in subjects such as Workshop Practice and Engineering Drawing.

The recommendations were that students who did not do technical subjects at school should be given more time in subjects such as workshop practice and more exercises in subjects such as Engineering Drawing in order for them to properly grasp and perform the required tasks both at College and industry.

The other recommendation was that the secondary school curriculum should be changed so that teaching of subjects such as technical drawing, metal work and woodwork should be made compulsory. Lastly the recruitment policy into technical courses at Polytechnics and Technical Colleges should be changed. Students who have done technical subjects at secondary school should be given preference as compared to those who have not done.