

# THE REASONS BEHIND STUDENT'S DISINTEREST IN MATH AS A MAJOR AT QATAR UNIVERSITY A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY

Mahmoud I. Syam<sup>1\*</sup> and Salim N. Salim<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Qatar University, STATE OF QATAR, [M.syam@qu.edu.qa](mailto:M.syam@qu.edu.qa)

<sup>2</sup>Qatar University, STATE OF QATAR, [salimnazar@qu.edu.qa](mailto:salimnazar@qu.edu.qa)

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

Most universities in the world contain colleges of science as the college of basic sciences. Mathematics is one of the main specializations in these colleges, mathematics departments offer many courses for their students, beside different courses serving other colleges. It has been noticed that the number of students who specialize in mathematics in many universities within the Gulf including Qatar University and the world in general is reducing. This phenomenon led the authors to stop and try to investigate for factors that cause this reduction. Are they the students, schools' teachers, universities' instructors, the family, or other factors?. In an earlier case study about this phenomenon, students opinion at Qatar University were taken through a questionnaire distributed among them. In this paper, instructors from Qatar university were asked about their opinion through a questionnaire which contained 19 questions and was distributed among them. The research aimed to focus on instructors as one of the reasons behind students' disinterest to specialize in Mathematics. It is found that there are social reasons like the family and the lack of work fields for Math graduates. Also, financial reasons like low salaries for Math graduates. In addition, cultural reasons like the society view of a math teacher to be less than other majors, and many other reasons.

**Keywords:** Reasons; Disinterest; Major; Mathematics; Stratified Simple Random Sample, Z-Test.