



METRO-DAGUPAN COLLEGES
Serafica Street, Mangaldan, Pangasinan

Learning Difficulties of 1st year High School Students at Metro-Dagupan Colleges

Science-Based Productivity High School in Subtracting Integers.

A Thesis Presented to the Faculty of Metro-Dagupan Colleges

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	Title	i
	Approval sheet	ii
	Table of Contents	iii
	Acknowledgment	v
	Dedication	vi
	Thesis abstract	vii
1	THE PROBLEM AND ITS BACKGROUND	
	Introduction	1
	Theoretical Framework	3
	Review of Related Studies	5
	Statement of the Problem	8
	Scope and Delimitation of the Study	8
	Research Hypothesis	8
	Significance of the Study.....	8
	Definition of Terms	11



2

RESEARCH DESIGN

Respondent of the study	12
Procedure of the study	13

3

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary	19
Conclusion	19
Recommendations	19
BIBLIOGRAPHY	21

APPENDIXES

a. Permission Letter for Questionnaire	23
b. Questionnaires	24
c. Curriculum vitae	26



THESIS ABSTRACT

TITLE: LEARNING DIFFICULTIES OF 1ST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AT
METRO-DAGUPAN COLLEGES IN SUBTRACTING INTEGERS.

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Introduction

Mathematics is the mirror of civilization, since the time of our forefathers. In mathematics, they used their hands and feet to measure length and as the years passed, mathematics developed systems of measurement for purpose of daily living.

The study of mathematics is one of the most important elements in the academic world. It is considered as the basic factor that shape the person's logical mind and it is an indispensable tool in any endeavor. Mathematics is a pure science that can be applied to everyday activities. Even those who have not gone through formal education cannot ignore its use and importance in life. It is a necessity like any other basic knowledge since man uses it daily.



Learning mathematics, however, is not easy. Although people have already used it unknowingly, some students have always felt acquiring knowledge about it through formal schooling as a nightmare. Courses having mathematics subjects are usually avoided due to learning difficulties. Only few dare to venture in this seemingly dreaded field of knowledge.

Despite, this everybody needs mathematics. From street vendors to chief executive officers of large corporations, mathematics is there to make work easier and fruitful.

The street vendors need mathematics early in the morning to identify the number of goods they have to sell and need it again in the afternoon when they want to know how much they earned. On the other hand, the chief executive officer needs a higher form of mathematics to ascertain that everything is on target and according to planned. Mathematics is therefore, really an indispensable tool in every endeavor in life.

Mathematics is an important concern in the education enterprise because of its role in meeting the requirements for natural development. It aims to help individuals become effective citizens, who are conscious of their role in our current advancing society in terms of science and technology teaching mathematics is directed towards the growth of mathematical competencies and skills that would be relevant and indispensable not only to one's life and culture but also to the economic progress, which largely depends upon all scientific and technology evolution.

The usefulness of mathematics in shaping society is very evident. Science and technology business and economics, trade and industry, median and service, language and arts, fashion and social relations, communication and travel, architecture and designs all are touched by mathematics.



Teachers are assigned to the task of facilitating, enhancing and developing right attitudes for the acquisition of mathematical skills. The mathematical performance of students is expected to determine the kind of leaders they will become in the future. The efforts of mathematics teachers are geared towards making mathematics interesting to learners. Curriculum planners and educators realized the need for concretizing abstract sciences like mathematics in order for learning experiences to be meaningful.

The students should be allowed to enjoy and acquire mathematical understanding. They should be well equipped with necessary mathematical knowledge, skills and attitudes that will make them prime citizens of the country and shapers of the future. They should be given proper education, for the individual to participate and live successfully in a challenging, highly competitive, changing and technological world.

Cognizant of the fact that mathematics is a difficult subject this researcher who is mathematics major would like to know the difficulties of the high school students in learning mathematics. Based on experiences of teaching integers in secondary schools it was found that many students were facing difficulties in understanding the topic of integers. Many secondary mathematics teachers have expressed their concern over student's poor performances on integers. Understanding integers is considered basic for progression to other topics. High School Students tend to get confused with the signs and operations on integers although teachers had attempted to explain about it several times. The number line model that is popular among the teachers is also confusing to the students. Rules given make matters worse.