ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Mathematics

KEY WORDS: Social Media, Awareness. Students of Teacher Education

A STUDY ON MATHEMATICS INTEREST OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

A number of previous researchers indicated that students' mathematics interest is still low because most of them have perceived that mathematics is very difficult, boring, not very practical, and have many abstract theorems that were very hard to understand. This research is aimed to examine the variation of mathematical interest among Hr. Sec. School students. The investigator used normative survey method to collect data. 250 higher secondary students were randomly selected for this study. The result revealed that there is significance difference between male and female of higher secondary students in their mathematical interest and there is significance different between rural and urban higher secondary students in their mathematical interest.

Mathematical Interest

Mathematics occupies an important place in recent curriculum. Keeping in view its importance the various education commissions has recommended it as compulsory subject for students at school level. Mathematics should be visualized as a vehicle to train a child to think, reason, analyze and to articulate logically. Not only that, Mathematics is also considered as "Mother of science". In the field of education, it has become a burning problem and the number of low achievers in mathematics in the school level is constantly increasing. In spite of the pedagogic progress and efforts of the teachers of mathematics, results are unsatisfactory. This may be due to lack of "Interest" of the students in the subject of mathematics .Whatever one learns "Interest " plays a dominant role in making him learn that thing. Interest may be regarded as a highly specific type of attitude.

Interests are aroused early in life and are affected by an individual's physical, mental and emotional conditions besides by the bio-social and the bio-physical environment, in which the individual is brought up. Interest may be innate or acquired. They are linked with one's need and want. As development needs change with age and as new needs born out of social interactions and influence arise, interests also change. Factors like sex, socio-economic and occupational status of Parents, level of maturity are some of the factors that result in changes in interests of children. Interest may be thought of as one of the forces that motivate activity. In other words, they represent a tendency to select one activity or thing in preference to something else.

Objectives

The present investigation has been undertaken with the view to find out

- To find whether there is any significant difference between male and female higher secondary student's interest in mathematics.
- To find out whether there is any significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary students interest in mathematics.

Null Hypothesis

- There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students interest in mathematics.
- There is no significant difference between Rural and Urban higher secondary students interest in mathematics.

Method and population of Study

The investigator used normative survey method to collect data. The population of the study consists of 250 higher secondary students in Tirunelveli District.

Tools used in the study

The investigator has adopted Mathematical Interest Inventory (MII) developed and validated by L.N.Dubey,(1982)

Hypothesis 1

There is significant difference between male and female higher secondary students interest in mathematics.

Table – 1 Difference Between Male And Female Higher Secondary Students Interest In Mathematics

Gender	Number	Mean	SD	Calculated 't' Value	Significant at 0.01 level
Male	123	23.49	5.890	2.0	S
Female	127	25.02	6.195		

(at 1% level of significance, the 't' value is 1.96)

It is inferred from the above table that there is significant difference between male and female higher secondary students interest in mathematics.

Hypothesis 2

There is significant difference between Rural and Urban higher secondary students interest in mathematics.

Table – 2 Difference Between Rural And Urban Higher Secondary Students Interest In Mathematics

Type of School Location	Number	Mean	SD	Calculated 't' Value	Significant at 0.01 level
Rural	110	26.05	6.415	4.2	S
Urban	140	22.86	5.433		

at 1% level of significance, the 't' value is 1.96)

It is inferred from the above table that there is significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary students interest in mathematics.

Findings

- There is significant difference between male and female higher secondary students in their interest in mathematics.
- There is significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary students in their interest in mathematics.

Educational Implications

The goal of the study is to investigate the mathematics interest among higher secondary school students under various criteria's. It is to predict that students are able to show interest in learning mathematics under various circumstances. It can be gained by facilitating a better learning environment by incorporating modern technologies to it. Effective efforts should be taken by the parents and school authorities in order to overcome and increase the level of interest in mathematics further more.

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