

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY THE STUDENTS IN THE SUBJECT MATHEMATICS

by:
Maureen S. Cayabyab

It is not a surprise that most students hate Mathematics. There are people who are just find this subject dull and boring. It actually became normal to hear students saying, "I hate Math." For some it feels like their brain stops working whenever they need to work with numbers and equations. In fact, for many students, practicing math is not something that comes intuitively or automatically, it takes plenty of effort. Survey reports even suggest that 37% of the students aged between 13 – 17 found math to be the most difficult subject.

Here are some difficulties encountered by students in the subject Math:

1. **Number Facts** Incomplete mastery of basic number facts, such as the multiplication tables, simple addition and subtraction, is a common problem for math students. Number facts are the building blocks for learning math and are necessary for understanding more complex concepts.
2. **Computational Weaknesses** Students might experience computational weaknesses in the course of their math assignments and exams. Examples of computational weaknesses include carrying the wrong number during multiplication or division, transposing the wrong number when writing down the final answer, writing numbers in the wrong column during long division or even misreading signs and symbols.
3. **Learning Disabilities** Learning disabilities are a common source of difficulty in understanding mathematics. Students who suffer from dyscalculia, for example, generally have a problem with numbers and arithmetic. They usually have problems recognizing numbers and matching them with amounts, comparing numbers and mastering number relationships, comprehending sequences and even making accurate estimations. Such students might also have difficulties understanding math vocabulary

and are unable to process word problems in mathematics. 4. Inattentiveness Students who fail to pay proper attention to detail and double-check their work before submission often score poorly. Memorizing instead of understanding mathematical principles also causes difficulties for students, especially when they are unable to remember the exact steps used to solve a problem.

As a Math teacher, I strongly believe that it is my duties and responsibilities to help my students overcome these difficulties. It's a failure for as teachers, most especially Math teachers if we will just keep on accepting the fact that students hate Math. I think it is a must for us to improve ourselves and think of new ways and activities that will fit to our students.

Our learners nowadays are not just simply learners, they are the 21st Century learners which means that they are more advance and tech savvy. Ergo, we should also innovate ourselves as teachers and be a 21st Century Teacher.

They always say that the only thing permanent in life is change and it's true. Everything will change including the way of teaching and learning, so for us teachers we should always be open to change so that we could teach and guide our learners in every ways we can. Let us keep in mind that, real difficulties can be overcome, it is the imaginary ones that are unconquerable.

References:

<https://classroom.synonym.com/common-problems-students-mathematics-19834.html>