

## NUMERACY IN PH EDUCATION

by:

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Numeracy, or the ability to understand and work with numbers, is a critical skill for success in many areas of life. In the Philippines, numeracy is a key component of the country's education system. However, there are concerns about the numeracy level of Filipino students. Let us talk about the numeracy level of Filipino students and the efforts being made to improve it.

### Numeracy Levels of Filipino Students

In the 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Filipino students ranked among the least proficient groups of students compared to all the participating countries. Within the field of mathematics, fewer than 20% of students exhibited the minimum level of proficiency (Level 2), whereas over 50% displayed significantly low proficiency (below Level 1). These Filipino students, scoring below the minimum proficiency threshold in the PISA assessment, have clearly fallen behind in terms of their mathematical education. More than half of this age group of Filipino students possess insufficient mathematical skills when compared to their counterparts in other regions of the globe.

## Reasons for Low Numeracy Levels

There are several reasons why Filipino students may have low numeracy levels. These include:

**Lack of Resources-** Many schools in the Philippines do not have adequate resources to teach mathematics effectively. This includes a shortage of qualified teachers, outdated textbooks, and a lack of technology and equipment.

**Poor Teaching Methods-** Some teachers may not have the necessary training or experience to teach mathematics effectively. They may rely on rote memorization instead of teaching students how to understand mathematical concepts.

**Limited Opportunities for Practice-** Students may not have enough opportunities to practice their numeracy skills outside of the classroom. This can be due to a lack of resources at home or a lack of extracurricular activities that encourage mathematical thinking.

## Efforts to Improve Numeracy Levels

Fortunately, there are several efforts being made to improve the numeracy level of Filipino students. These include:

**Providing Resources-** The Department of Education (DepEd) has implemented several programs to provide resources to schools, such as updated textbooks, teacher training programs, and the provision of technology and equipment.

**Improving Teaching Methods-** The DepEd is working to improve the teaching methods used in the classroom. This includes encouraging teachers to use more interactive and student-centered approaches to teaching mathematics.

Increasing Opportunities for Practice- The DepEd is also working to increase opportunities for students to practice their numeracy skills. This includes promoting extracurricular activities that encourage mathematical thinking and providing resources for students to practice at home.

The numeracy level of Filipino students is an important issue that needs to be addressed. Teachers in the country must be given more than enough learning resources, instructional materials, and related training to help improve the quality of teaching that they provide the learners.

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