

**TOP DOWN VIEW: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH IN  
UNDERMINING NUMERACY THREATS IN THE PHILIPPINE  
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

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Recent assessments and inquiries indicate that there continues to be an issue, with numeracy among secondary-level students in the Philippines. Understanding and working with numbers. Known as numeracy. Is crucial for students to excel in their pursuits in subjects, like Science and Mathematics. However, a considerable number of students encounter challenges in this domain.

Based on the results, from the 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) the Philippines ranks among the nations with scores in Mathematics Literacy out of 79 countries assessed globally. Filipino students achieved a score of 353 points in comparison to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average of 489 points. This highlights a concerning gap in knowledge among many secondary school students that is essential, for critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Various factors contribute to the existing gaps, in numerical skills proficiency levels among individuals. Initially, discrepancies in opportunities remain a concern, particularly in disadvantaged and remote regions. Educational institutions in areas often face challenges such as skilled educators, inadequate facilities, and restricted availability of top-notch learning materials; all of which impact students' performance, in mathematics adversely.

The quality of teaching poses a challenge well in the realm of Mathematics education, at schools; numerous educators lack adequate professional growth chances and training needed for the task at hand as per research conducted by the Philippine Institute, for Development Studies (PID). Enhancing teacher skills is deemed crucial to enhance students' math abilities in areas based on survey results.

In addition, to that point raised earlier on about how certain students struggle with grasping ideas because of language obstacles. Especially if English isn't their first language and serves as the predominant instructional language in most math materials. The Department of Education (DepEd) has kicked off various efforts like the National Numeracy Program and enhanced teacher training schemes to enhance students' numerical abilities. Progress is moving at a pace. Further funding is needed to address these shortcomings and enhance the math skills of high school students, across the Philippines.

The differences, in math skills among students in the Philippines highlight a problem within the country's education system. As initiatives are put in place to improve students' math abilities it is vital to continue striving for opportunities, for all students regardless of their location or economic status to ensure they have the necessary support to excel in math and other academic areas.

#### *References:*

- OECD. (2019). PISA 2018 Results: What Students Know and Can Do.  
Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS). (2020). Addressing the Gaps in Numeracy and Literacy Skills among Filipino Students.