

A.L.P.S.: ALGEBRA LESSON, PHOBIA OF THE STUDENTS

by:

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“Sir, can you just give the correct answer to the equation written on the board?”

As teachers, we often hear it during our mathematics class in junior high school. The fear of the students with numbers was very evident during the discussion. To make it “worse” for them, the numbers joined with letters. These numbers and letters combined often found under the lesson called Algebra.

According to cuemath.com, Algebra is the branch of mathematics that helps in the demonstration of problems or conditions in the form of mathematical expressions. It collects variables like x , y , z , and other mathematical operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to form a meaningful mathematical expression.

As Algebra taught in Grade 8, students became more anxious to solve the problem given by the teacher. The result of the question boils down to two choices: Right or Wrong. In addition, there is this mindset in the students especially with the non-specialized sections that Mathematics is a difficult subject. This results in Algebra Phobia to the students.

The pressure from embarrassment to commit mistakes especially during board work and the fear of not understanding the symbols and numbers together are the sources of Algebra Phobia to the students.

As a teacher, how do we lessen the fear of the students in Algebra? Here are some suggestions for what teachers can do inside the classroom.

M-motivate students by giving positive reinforcement whenever they provide answers in the classroom.

A-appreciate the answer of the students even if the answer is incorrect. A clap or praise can be a game changer for the students when they got a correct answer.

T-try to provide multiple exercises or activity sheets to the students. The goal is to practice the skills rather than the assessment itself.

H-help students to understand that math is enjoyable and easy as eating candy. Teachers can give students real-life situations examples so that students can relate with the problem presented.

To address the problem is the first start of changing the teaching-learning process inside the classroom. Also, involving cooperation among the students such as group activities, challenges, and interactive games make studying fun.

Lastly, there are no problems that cannot be solved if we put our mind and heart into it. As we always do as teachers, supporting and motivating students to learn algebra is our priority. We can beat the phobia in Algebra or any subject if we have the right tool or proper mindset.

References:

Khurma, Manan. 2019. <https://www.cuemath.com/algebra/>

“Math phobia: Causes and Remedies” (2020) retrieved from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/a-common-man-viewpoint/math-phobia-causes-and-remedies-21792/>