

VEDIC MATH TECHNIQUE: A TOOL TO IMPROVE NUMERICAL SKILLS OF FILIPINO LEARNERS

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Many Filipino learners face challenges in Mathematics, specifically in problem-solving and critical thinking. In the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the Philippines placed 76th out of 81 participating countries. This indicates that many Filipino learners perform below the basic proficiency level in Mathematics. Filipino learners struggle with foundational Mathematical skills because of the high level of Math anxiety.

Vedic Mathematics Technique (VMT) presents a powerful solution to this problem. It is a method developed by the Indian mathematician Jagadguru Shri Bharati Krishna Tirthaji between 1911 to 1918 in India. VMT used simple, mental-based strategies and shortcut methods to solve mathematical problems more easily and quickly. Vedic Math has a simple method for multiplication, division, squaring numbers, and algebra.

VMT is crucial to improving the numerical skills of Filipino learners. The Department of Education has acknowledged the positive impact of Vedic Math among learners. DepEd is also promoting its integration into the Math Curriculum. Since 2021, MATH-Inic Philippines has been organizing an annual competition to encourage VMT among different schools nationwide. The MATH-Inic Vedic Mathematics National Challenge (MVMNC) and the Philippine National Vedic Mathematics Olympiad (PNVMO) joined together to help improve the mathematical skills of Filipino students.

Filipino learners experience anxiety, a lack of confidence, and difficulty understanding mathematical concepts; thus, the Vedic Math Technique would greatly

help address these issues. VMT is an effective tool because it builds trust and reduces anxiety. Likewise, students feel more motivated since the VMT is straightforward and often produces accurate results. It saves time and enables learners to solve problems quickly.

Furthermore, Vedic Math Techniques boost mental calculation not just in school but in their everyday lives. The focus and memory of the learners improve as they become more skilled in using VMT to solve problems in Math. It also encourages critical and creative thinking by helping learners recognize patterns and relationships between numbers.

Moreover, VMT supports the development of foundational skills in Mathematics, such as the four basic operations: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division. VMT presents these skills in a simplified and engaging way, making it easier for the students to progress in more advanced Mathematical concepts.

Teachers should integrate the Vedic Math Technique in teaching their students. This will make Mathematics a subject they can enjoy and not a subject that makes their lives “difficult”. Those teachers who used VMT observed greater student engagement and improved performance in Math (Day-ongao, 2022). Vedic Math also increases speed and accuracy. (Raikhola et al. 2020).

In conclusion, the Vedic Math Technique solves mathematical calculations accurately, quickly, and time-savingsly. It is easier to learn and understand. It also improves memory and mental alertness. It consistently creates a stress-free environment and makes Math a “fun” subject. Teachers should leave the boring and rigid Mathematical Techniques and use VMT as a new way to teach numerical skills. If it is widely adopted, Vedic Math could be a powerful tool in transforming how Filipino learners experience Mathematics, helping them to build strong foundational skills to achieve academic success.

References:

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Raikhola, S., Panthi, D., Acharya, E., and Jha, K. (2020) A Thematic Analysis on Vedic Mathematics and Its Importance. Open Access Library Journal, 7, 1-9