

An analysis of the factors responsible for the performance of students in mathematics: A case of Maridi state, South Sudan

Namana Simon Mohandis

Keywords: *Mathematics, Students Performance*

Introduction

The study set out to examine factors responsible for THE performance of students in mathematics in Maridi state, South Sudan. Mathematics is an essential subject for many fields and mathematical ability can be used very effectively in the field of management.

Objectives

The study was based on three objectives:

1. to determine teacher related factors that influenced secondary school students' poor performance in mathematics in Maridi State,
2. to establish the socio-economic factors that influenced secondary school students' poor performance in mathematics in Maridi State, and
3. to establish the personal factors that influenced secondary school students' poor performance in mathematics in Maridi State.

Methodology

The study design comprised a combination of both descriptive research designs and both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed. A sample size of 127 was used. Data were collected using self-administer questionnaires, interviews and review of related literature.

Key findings

The Study revealed that styles of teaching mathematics mainly depended on teachers' attitudes. The findings further revealed that socio-economic status was a predictor of mathematics achievement. The study revealed that parental and maternal education, occupation, family income and family support in educational matters played a facilitative role in math achievement.

Key recommendations

The study recommended that administrators of schools should examine teacher-student relationship which is a key factor in influencing students' performance. The study further recommended that the school administrators should encourage students to develop good attitudes towards math and build a strong arithmetic ability of learners in order to perform better in the subject.

Key references

Beaton et al. (2002) Separating school, classroom and student variances and their relationship to socioeconomic status, In D. F. Robitaille & A. E. Beaton (Eds.), Secondary analysis of the

TIMSS data (pp.2 11-231), Boston, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Brunner et al. (1975): *The act of discovery, reading in science education for the elementary schools* (3rd Ed), New York: Macmillan publication Co.

Good et al. (1977): *Educational Psychology- A realistic approach*, New York, Holt Rinehart and Winston.

Akpotu et al (2008): *Introduction to the teaching profession in Nigeria, (2nd edition)*, Agbor Royal: Pace Publication.