DIFFICULTIES IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS

by:

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Mathematics is one of the most exciting and thrilling subjects and yet many students find difficulties in it. It is one of the major subjects most learners hate.

Strategies and techniques must be inculcated in every activity just to sustain the attention of an individual learner. Activities must be suited to the needs of every individual. Each child is unique on its own needs, strengths and weaknesses. Not all children like numbers. But they should be motivated to love numbers. They should be inspired to deal with numbers and operations. If a child is well taught with numbers, he will not be frightened to solve problems anymore.

It is a fact that the teachers teaching Mathematics also find difficulties in teaching the content of the subject. There are lots of factors that hinder the learning process. Understanding the needs of an individual is an important thing to be considered. But if a child did not learn the very basic skill such as the four fundamental operations, how can a child be taught with the next level of learning? The foundation of a child is very important especially nowadays that our present curriculum requires us to teach the lessons in spiral method. What is taught in Grade One will not be taught in Grade Two, it will just be the continuation of the skills. And so the arises of many problems occur. Thus teachers find difficulties in teaching the four operations involving fractions and decimals when the learners did not learn the basic skills. So sad to know that even there are other strategies applied but still children do not react on them.

The Department of Education continuously provides teachers seminars and workshops in teaching Mathematics. Different techniques and strategies are being taught including routine and non-routine in solving word problems. Singaporean block
The model approach is also adapted in teaching Mathematics. This methodology was created by Hector Chee, a Singaporean teacher. In this method the child will start to understand the relationship between parts. Once it was mastered, they can use rectangular blocks to represent the math problems and be able to solve them. But no matter how efficient a Math teacher is, if the child lacks the basic knowledge in dealing with numbers, great difficulties will always arise. The need to strengthen the foundation must be done at the very beginning. Certainly, once a child has a good foundation, there will be no reason for him to hate Mathematics. He will surely enjoy numbers and operations and the continuity of the learning process will follow smoothly.

**References:**
