Every Mathematics teacher aims to increase students’ achievement. Different approaches may be implemented and lots of remedial activities are given to them to attain high grades. One of the difficult tasks of a teacher is to search for unique and effective methods for the students to learn. Attending seminars, surfing the internet and revising different formulas for the students to understand the lesson. Several instructional materials are also needed in teaching the lesson. One of the suggested instructional materials to be used in teaching this subject is by using manipulatives.

Manipulative is an object that serves as a tool to make the learners experience the hands-on learning. Some of these are algebra tiles, dice, and tangrams. The used of these materials is an effective way to make the students understand Algebra, Probability and Geometry. Most of the students find Mathematics as a boring subject. Seeing numbers and equations written on the board gives them stress. Manipulative may substitute these algebraic expressions. The colorful algebraic tiles may reduce the students’ fear in learning some topics in Algebra. This fact about manipulative supports by Tornio (2016). She states that children at an early age that is using manipulative and engaged in different activities in the classroom learn better. She stressed the used of these objects such as the fraction tile magnets give excitements in learning Mathematics and promote teamwork. This will also help them to overcome their fear in Mathematics.

Similarly, Jones (2017) states that using manipulatives increase students’ achievement in Mathematics. The implementation of concrete and virtual manipulatives in all grade levels will develop a healthier understanding of difficult topics in Math. These are powerful tools that promote creative learning. These tools represent deeper mathematics concepts that can provide the learners simpler ideas connected to the abstract concept of the subject. It also enhance the
learner’s thinking skills and improve their abilities on how to manipulate objects and used them effectively as models in learning Mathematics.

Furthermore, Lee (2015) emphasized that the used of manipulative help the students to reflect and learn in meaningful ways. This allows them to relate concrete experiences into abstract reasoning. A kid who is studying fraction may be difficult for him to grasp that 1/2 is greater than 1/4 but by simply observing a model or a presentation of these fraction, it will be easier for him to identify larger or smaller fraction. Manipulatives diminish students’ errors and make them appreciate this subject. If learners will learn through their experience in operating these materials, it will be easier for them to explore and try new ways of learning.

There are several methods on how to improve mathematical abilities of the students. Using manipulative is an appropriate way to lessen the insanity of the learners in Mathematics. Traditional method of lecture and discussion may also help the students in learning this subject but these tools will provide them higher thinking skills. Hands-on experiences inside the classroom will make the learning enjoyable and make the learners explore and discover new things that will lead them to a greater education.

References:

The top 5 Reasons for Using Manipulatives in the Classroom

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