PROFITS OF TEACHING MATHEMATICS

by:
Leony Ann E. Pruna
Teacher III, Orani National High School-Parang-parang

Mathematics is one of the most hated subject in school. Its abstract concept that makes the students think critically is a proof that it is difficult. Operation on numbers, finding the value of x and evaluating trigonometric functions that make them insane with the lessons. But behind this unfavorable view on Mathematics is its positive advantage in such a way that it practices our analysis and uses to train our brain to think analytically. Most of the lessons cannot be appreciated by most of the learners because of its complexity.

One of the objectives of a Mathematics teacher is not only to make you understand this subject but to make you realize that every task can be accomplished and any problem can be solved by means of patiently finding solutions for it and exert much effort to do different works. The purpose of Mathematics is to make the complex task into simpler ones. Parikh (2013) emphasized its benefits in the sense that it provides various creative ideas. It is an interesting subject that is used as a tool in teaching children with disabilities. An abacus is one of the teaching device used by students with autism. It also promotes collaborative learning and train you to be an independent individual. Learning Mathematics is not easy but if the learners will appreciate its essence, it will change their negative attitude towards the subject.

In terms of the role of the teachers, teaching Mathematics is a tough one. Relating this subject to real life for the students to absorb the knowledge and teach them how to follow the step by step procedure in problem solving are struggles. It also gives us headache but providing them varied problems and equations for them to understand the lesson is an achievement for us Mathematics teachers. Looking simply to a student who patiently solve the given problem on the board is a great feeling. It can reduce stress and seeing them appreciating the subject is a lovely gift.
Despite of the undesirable characteristics of this subject, the advantage of teaching Mathematics compared to other subject is its cheapness. A simple chalk and board may be enough in teaching. PowerPoint presentation may also be used to introduce the lesson. The traditional paper and pencil test is still effective to know if they understand the lesson. Scientific calculator maybe expensive but it is used by the students throughout the year. No required materials every day. Requiring the students to bring measuring materials such as ruler, protractor or tape measure is seasonal. This only depends on the activity implemented by the teachers. The best material a student can bring into a Mathematics class is an alert mind and enthusiasm in every activity that needs to accomplish. A well-trained mind that ready to face the challenging problems and showing the act of listening skills are the greatest accessories a learner can wear during Mathematics class. The inexpensiveness of the subject may motivate the students to learn and love Mathematics, knowing that most of our students in the public school came into a poor family. This will also make them recognize that quality education can be achieved without money. It is the way on how you uncomplainingly solve equations in a Math class that counts and not on the amount of money you spent in doing projects.

On the other hand, the advantage of this subject to Math teachers, is that it promotes discovery learning. We can let our students learn from their own. You can guide them in answering the given activity but 15-20 minutes is enough to discuss the lesson and the rest time will be evaluation and they can still present new ideas or methods in answering the given problem. Sharing of ideas implies that Mathematics also promotes good relationship between teachers and students.

References:

The Real facts of Math and its Advantages for Students

Hardik Parikh 2013