THE INFLUENCE OF PEERS IN LEARNING GENERAL MATHEMATICS OF GRADE 11 SHS STUDENTS

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Ideally, the age of a Grade 11 SHS student is 16 years old based on the “Discussion paper on the enhanced K to 12 Basic Education Program”. Peers have great influence in the lives of children in the adolescent age where it is said to be the “peak of peer influence”. They tend to listen more to their peers rather to the authorities like parents and teachers. In the continuous effects of peers on academic learning, it has been presented that a fervent style in teaching Mathematics to college students is peer teaching which has been stated in the study “The Effect of Peer Teaching on Mathematics Academic Achievement of the Undergraduate Students in Oman” by Ra‘ed Abdelkarim & Reem Abuiyada.

This supports some observations where students when clustered with their own group; either by age or sex are more motivated to learn which interests them. Disinterested students in Mathematics subject have a tendency of failing the subject when no appropriate intervention is made. So to reduce the number of students at risk of failure, it is highly recommended to use peer teaching as a strategy to help students in increasing their achievement. (Ra‘ed & Reem, 2016).

One of the strategies I employed in my General Mathematics class is to identify the students who have the ability to teach others. This is done after few sessions and is based on their written and oral performances within the period of one month. After doing so, select students are oriented on how to share their skills in understanding specific topics and let them pick their group members. The select students also serve as the monitor for
the group on the progress of each member. Livelier and more excited students actively participate in the activities and give good results. Moreover, it is observed that students who learned from their peers can also perform individual task with less help from the group.

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