WHY DO STUDENTS HATE MATHEMATICS?

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According to Genio (2016), mathematics is similar to tackling a foreign language while other say it is different from all other subjects because Mathematics is abstract and requires more logical and ordered thinking. Math builds on concept. For instance, a learner has difficulty with elementary arithmetic specifically algebra. Math is hierarchal—if one learner does not understand simple arithmetic, chances are he/she cannot proceed to the next chapter or lesson. That differs mathematics from all other subjects. It is highly recommended to master the basic concepts like multiplication, addition, subtraction and division. Math is abstract in a way that learners can use whatever method is available, as long as the method is correct.

Gender issue has been included too. According to Joan Deak, author of “Girls will be girls: Raising Confident and Courageous Daughters” says that boys and girls learn different things differently. For instance, she contends that neurological findings have shown that girls usually develop language skills faster, while boys their spatial and visual skills.

Girls are more advance than boys many aspects. One of this aspects is in learning. Usually in problem solving cases, girls and boys perceived the case differently. As mathematics do not have single method, girls usually see the concept as a whole while boys still need to break down information into smaller ideas to easily understand it. Girls develop first their language skills faster that is connected in mathematics while boys are up to kinesthetic skills where mathematics do not demand much in physical work.
Most of the students do not see the beauty of mathematics. One reason of this is teacher-student relationship. Teaching by memorization become the trend in teaching mathematics. And that is one of the reasons why the blame is on the teacher. Students starts to declare that they are not a math person which is a very deadly thought. Students stop to what they know. Teachers are attending seminars, workshops, and trainings to improve their instruction. Froebel’s theory which is teaching through play is one way to teach effectively in mathematics.

The challenges that the students are facing in math subjects is the way that it is being taught. Methods should be interactive, engaging and applicable to real life situation. Math taught strictly with pen-and-paper without any demonstrations will never be of help.

Gender should never be blamed why math is being hated. A person’s interest in math is determined on how they are exposed with the subject. Boys and girls have different ways of thinking, whatever the solution is, so long the answers are correct. The teachers play a vital role in teaching mathematics. Teachers’ strategies must be effective as mathematics is used in daily lives such as arithmetic where it can be related to a real context. Teachers’ strategy must be effective to the learners.

As a conclusion, teachers should not compromise the possibility that the students might embrace mathematics without any hatred. Teachers must give happy memories in a math class. Appropriate learning materials must be provided. Teachers must consider the student’s capability of learning. Poor teaching strategy is the main reason why math is being hated. Students were stuck in a dull and boring lecture that could possibly become an alive and interactive discussion. Teachers must have an effective strategy to assess students’ needs and to not give student a traumatic dull discussion.
References:

Genio, Maria Teresa (2016), Why is Mathematics a Hated Subject? The Modern Teacher p. 134-135


Quora, Why do people hate mathematics? There are few people in the world who seem to appreciate the beauty of math. Mathematics has been associated with the words "geeky and sophisticated" rather than "creative and artistic", even among scientists. https://www.quora.com/Why-do-people-hate-mathematics. (Accessed October 7, 2018.)