PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SINDANGAN

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GARLIE JHAY S. VILLARMINO

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ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to determine the problem solving skills of the junior high school students of Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte. It involved 351 Grade 9 students. It was conducted in the selected public secondary schools of Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte during the School Year 2016-2017.

This study looked into the profile of the respondents, their problem solving skills, and academic performance. It also ascertained if there exist a significant correlation between the problem solving skills and academic performance of the respondents; and the significant difference between the problem solving skills of the male and female respondents. Similarly, this study tried to determine if there exist a significant relationship between the respondents' profile and their problem solving skills.

The study revealed that majority of the respondents were 14-15 years old, females, whose parents were high school graduates, farmers and housekeepers, with monthly family income of P10,000 and below, and were staying more than 5 kilometers from school.

Greater majority of the student-respondents' problem solving skills was not good. The academic performance of the student in Mathematics was Very Good.

Furthermore, there was a significant correlation between the problem solving skills of the respondents and their academic performance in Mathematics. No significant difference exists between the problem solving skills of male and female respondents.

Moreover, there was no dependency relation between the student-respondents' age and sex and their problem solving skills. The relationship between the parents' educational attainment, parents' occupation and family monthly income and the student-respondents' problem solving skills cannot be determined from the gathered data. However, there was a significant association between the distance from home to school and the students' problem solving skills.

Finally, the study recommends that the school administrators plan and organize varied trainings and seminar-workshops for Mathematics teachers relative to the teaching of problem solving skills in Mathematics; that the Mathematics teachers employ best practices and approaches to increase students' problem solving performance; that the parents support and guide their children by monitoring their children's studies at homes as these are seen important in enhancing their mathematics performance and that another study be conducted in other districts with an increased variables.