**Undergraduate programming courses, students’ perception and success**

Learning programming at university level is the challenge for both students and teachers, especially for students without previous exposure to programming. Most of the programming courses are compulsory and tough to learn for novice programmers. Students lack the understanding of basic programming concepts and algorithms and find programming difficult.

Programming is challenging subject for learning and teaching. Introductory programming courses at the universities are very important since they are responsible for students’ acquiring of basic programming skills and knowledge. Unfortunately, they also have highest drop-out rates and we also noticed that students do not have knowledge and skills as expected even after they pass introductory programming courses.

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According to some researchers, students mathematical abilities often positively reflect on their programming abilities (Bennedsen, 2008), (Sauter, 1986). Hence, teachers tend to design curriculum that favors such students, while other aspect such as problem solving might be neglected.

Students have additional difficulties with abstract thinking