RESILIENT MINDS: EXPLORING THE COPING STRATEGIES IN MATHEMATICS LEARNING UTILIZED BY GRADE 11 STEM STUDENTS IN PADRE GARCIA INTEGRATED NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Mathematics is crucial in secondary education, impacting career paths and life success, yet students at Padre Garcia Integrated National High School in the Philippines struggle with low proficiency and test scores. DepEd's initiatives aim to enhance mathematics education, but

many Grade 11 STEM students at PGINHS still perform below mastery level based on statistical data and NAT results.

This study aimed to explore coping strategies used by Grade 11 STEM students in overcoming mathematics learning challenges, identify effective strategies to enhance performance and provide valuable insights into the role of coping strategies in overcoming difficulties. It employed interpretative phenomenological analysis, involving eight participants selected through convenience sampling from the STEM department at Padre Garcia Integrated National High School. Data was collected through one-on-one interviews and observation using a self-constructed semi-structured interview schedule. Thorough interpretation and analysis revealed five major themes: leveraging supplementary materials, cooperative learning and educational efficacy approaches, effectiveness and improvement in learning strategies, mathematical resilience and stress coping techniques, and interpersonal dynamics in math learning.

It was recommended that teachers may incorporate project-based learning activities in their mathematics curriculum to foster collaborative problem-solving and critical thinking skills, providing students with practical contexts to develop coping strategies and promoting active engagement and student autonomy. Additionally, the school may establish a mentorship program, pairing struggling students with mentors who have successfully coped with similar challenges, to create a supportive environment for sharing coping strategies, fostering a sense of community, and enhancing students' coping skills and confidence through collaborative learning.

Keywords: STEM students, challenges in mathematics coping strategies, IPA