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## INTEREST IN MATHEMATICS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

The paper aims to investigate the interest in mathematics among high school students. The sample of the study comprises of 580 high school students in Salem district who were randomly selected for the present study. Survey method is adopted for the present study. Data analysis revealed that the selected independent variable gender, type of institution and kind of institution influenced the mathematical interest among high school students. Other elected variables does not influenced in this study.

**KEY WORDS:** Interest, Mathematics, High school students.

### INTRODUCTION

Education is a process and acts as an instrument to bring out the innate behavior of the individual. The destiny of a nation lies in its classrooms. The strength of our nation depends on the teacher's ability to rear well-educated, responsible, well adjusted youth who

will step forward when the adult generation passes on to retirement. The students of today are the youths of tomorrow and future citizens of the country, therefore it is the responsibility of teachers, society and government to see that they are physically, mentally, emotionally and educationally healthy. The needful steps taken at this period ensures a healthy democracy in the country. Mathematics is very important subject; it helps the student's development in many facets. One of the common goals of all mathematics teachers at all levels of education is that students should understand and learn mathematics. Various factors are involved in shaping the understanding and learning of mathematics. However, one of the prerequisites for understanding mathematics is interest in mathematics and the desire of students to learn it. Interest is a stimulus that increases the activity power. Simultaneous to active learning, students should be interested in the subject they are learning and students may resort to it in order to understand the materials and apply them. Therefore, it is necessary to further examine the factors involved in making students interested in mathematics so that no one hear such phrases as "not too sweet course of mathematics! Wow! The boring mathematics class! Monster mathematics! By the way, why should these students often loses interest and may be forced to put up a mathematics class? Based on the above observation, the present study was undertaken.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To find out the significant difference in interest in mathematics among the high school students with respect to their gender, locality, type of institution, kind of institution, parental occupation and parental qualification .

### HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

There will be a significant mean score difference in



interest in mathematics among the high school students with respect to their gender, locality, type of institution, kind of institution, parental occupation and parental qualification .

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

The investigators have adopted normative survey method for the present study. The investigators have developed and standardized a mathematical interest tool for the present study. For these study 580 samples has been selected from 10 schools including Government, aided and private school located in Salem district using stratified random sampling technique. The statistical treatment mean, standard deviations and test of significance were used to analyses the data.

**HYPOTHESES TESTING**

There will be a significant mean score difference in interest in mathematics among the high school students with respect to their gender, locality, type of institution, kind of institution, parental occupation and parental qualification.

S.No.	Variable	Sub variable	Mean	't' Value	Significance at 0.05 level
1.	Gender	Boys	28.80	6.18	S*
		Girls	25.74		
2.	Locality	Rural	27.93	0.48	NS**
		Urban	27.72		
3.	Type of Institution	Govt.	27.96	3.11	S*
		Private	25.68		
4.	Kind of Institution	Unisex	27.86	4.3	S*
		Mixed	28.07		
5.	Parental occupation				NS**
	Father	Working in Organizations	28.22	1.3	
		Own Business	27.66		
	Mother	Working in Organizations	27.86	0.5	NS**
Own Business		28.07			
6.	Parental Educational qualification				NS**
	Father	Collegiate Education	28.40	1.38	
		School Education	27.83		
	Mother	Collegiate Education	28.39	1.37	NS**
School Education		27.84			

\*S-Significant

\*\* NS-Not Significant

**FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

There is a significant mean score difference in interest in mathematics among high school students with respect to gender, type of institution and kind of institution. It is statistically significant at 0.05 level. Other selected variables such as locality, parental qualification and parental occupation are not influenced in this study.

## CONCLUSION

The boys are superior to girls in mathematical interest. The government school students have more interest in mathematics while compared to private school students. When compared with mixed type of institution (Co-education) Unisex institution students are better in mathematical interest.

## RECOMENDATIONS

Mathematics is a subject which is very important for the intellectual development of students and also the propriety of the society. Moreover it is a compulsory subject up to the secondary level. Therefore the policy makers adopt various measures to make the subjects of all the types and categories of school and thereby increasing the achievement level of secondary level students.

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