

HOW PEOPLE PERCEIVE MATHEMATICS

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Abstract

The aim of the current study was to see the perception of mathematics by the people. An online survey was conducted for collecting data. 42 people, 14 females and 28 males, were participated in the online survey. The participant's age differenced from 15 to 62 with the mean of 26. 73.81% of the participants was evaluated themselves high achiever, 19.05% was evaluated themselves mid achiever, 7.14% was evaluated themselves low achiever in mathematics. The qualitative descriptive research approach was conducted for data collection and data analysis of the current study. The survey has some demographic questions such as age, gender, occupation and then has 4 questions to answer in order to identify people's perception of mathematics. The first question was related with defining mathematics. Some people said that mathematics was a discipline, some said it was everything, some said it was a way of explaining the world with numbers, some said it was a language of the nature or the universe. The second question was related with the reason of why we learn mathematics. Some people said to understand the universe and the nature, some said to pass the exams, some said to use in the daily life. The third question was related with the daily life examples of mathematics. Shopping, time, measurement, constructing buildings was the most common answers. The last question was related with the mathematics topics they loved. Functions, equations, limit, derivative and integral were the most popular topics. In general, the result of the study showed that there were different views for people's perception of mathematics related with the definition of mathematics.

Keywords: perception of mathematics, daily life mathematics, nature of mathematics