

A Study of the Arithmetic Skills of VII Standard Students

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Abstract:

Arithmetic is useful and important in our everyday life. This subject has secured higher place from ancient times in study. Now the knowledge of arithmetic has become not only necessary but also necessity. The progress and development of science in any country depend on the development of science and technology which is not possible without the knowledge of arithmetic. Arithmetic provides basic knowledge for complex and micro calculations with the help of computers. The knowledge of arithmetic is equally useful in predication of whether, researches in field of agriculture, medicine, data collection and analysis etc. so this study intends to measure the skills of arithmetic of students.

❖ Introduction

To cope up in this competitive world, an individual must have some skills, efficiencies and abilities. A person has to take help of arithmetic in his everyday activities like purchasing commodities, transactions with banks, export-imports and business and commerce. The progress in science, technology and engineering is due to help of arithmetic. In complex calculations, arithmetic is used in many fields like space, speed control, fuel efficiency etc. According to Kothari commission (1964-66) “We therefore recommend that science and mathematics should be taught on a compulsory basis to all pupils as a part of general education during the ten years of schooling.”

So at the primary level, language and Maths are two main subjects. Maths should be taught with various interesting methods. It is wide spread complain that students remain dull in Maths. One of the responsible factors for this poor result in Maths is low level of arithmetic skills. This study intends to find out reality of such result and to know the arithmetic skills of students.

❖ Statement of the Problem

A study of the Arithmetic skills of VII standard students.

❖ Objectives of the study

- (1) To decide the level of arithmetic skills of students.
- (2) To examine the effect of sex on arithmetic skills of students.
- (3) To examine the effect of types of schools on arithmetic skills of students.

❖ Hypothesis of the study

- (1) There will be no significant effect of sex on arithmetic skills of students.
- (2) There will be no significant effect of types of schools on arithmetic skills of students.

❖ Delimitation of the study

The study is limited for the students of std VII studying in Gujarati medium primary schools of Mehsana Taluka in academic year 2011-12

❖ **Population**

The students of std VII studying in Gujarati medium primary schools of Mehsana Taluka become the population for this study.

❖ **Sample**

Four private primary schools and four Government primary schools were selected by cluster sampling method. Twenty-five boys and twenty-five girls were selected randomly from each school. Total 200 boys and 200 girls were included in the sample.

❖ **Tools**

(1) School result sheets of first term exam.

(2) Arithmetic skill test constructed by Vinaben K. patel

Test was standardized. It included 100 statements and measures concepts of arithmetic, oral calculation, problem solving, logic etc. The allotted time period for test was decided 120 minutes.

(3) Answer sheets

❖ **Data analysis**

For data analysis, statistical methods were used. Based on the obtained score; mean, SD, standard error; chi-square etc. were calculated

Table: 1- Mean, SD and C.R. of scores obtained in arithmetic test in relation to sex

Level of Arithmetic skill	Sex						SED	C.R.	Level of Significance
	Boys			Girls					
	N	M	SD	N	M	SD			
Higher	64	77.10	7.42	44	75.20	7.05	1.92	0.91	NS
Medium	55	58.10	4.01	56	58.7	3.34	0.74	0.86	NS
Lover	81	39	7.17	100	35.2	7.99	1.43	2.68	-
Total	200	56.20	17.59	200	50.45	17.9	1.77	3.25	-

Table: 2- Mean, SD and C.R. of scores obtained in arithmetic test in relation to types of schools

Level of Arithmetic skill	Type of School						SED	C.R.	Level of Significant
	Private Schools			Govt. Schools					
	N	M	SD	N	M	SD			
Higher	65	77.3	7.76	43	75	6.33	1.89	1.22	NS
Medium	50	58.6	3.49	61	58.3	3.84	0.74	0.41	NS
Lover	85	37.6	6.88	96	36.3	8.60	1.44	0.91	NS
Total	200	55.75	18.49	200	50.9	17.11	1.78	2.72	-

❖ **Findings**

- (1) Most of the students were found with lower level arithmetic skills.
- (2) The medium level students were more in numbers than those with higher level.
- (3) Equal numbers of boys and girls were with medium level.
- (4) The significant difference was found between the arithmetic skills of boys and girls. It was in favour of boys.
- (5) The significant difference was found between the arithmetic skills of students studying in private primary schools and government primary schools. It was in favour of private primary schools.

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