

IMPROVING BASIC MATHEMATICAL SKILLS OF LOW PERFORMED SECONDARY STUDENTS OF TYPE II SCHOOLS IN GALLE ZONE

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A knowledgeable and well skilled community is vital important for the social and economic development of a society. Today critical thinking, non routine analytical thinking, and expert thinking skills are required for modern jobs to identify complex environment and solve problems. Mathematics education aims on developing person's analytical, critical, reasoning and problem solving abilities. Thus, mathematics education will ensure a person to develop not only the skills needed for modern job market, but also to face challenges in everyday life.

Among the variety of programs practiced in Sri Lanka aiming at mathematically weak students, the grade 11 remedial program launched by the ministry of education has set a benchmark for educators. This study is an attempt to address at least some students who miss the opportunity every year to get selected for the aforesaid remedial program due to its selection criteria.

The t- tests conducted based on the diagnostic tests and the term tests before and after the study showed significantly different results. Students scored better at the diagnostic test done after they studied the primary level text books. And also when compared with the term tests they had earlier, they had scored better at the last term test held after the study. It is envisaged that the suggestion of giving primary mathematics knowledge for low-performing students at lower secondary level is useful for improving mathematics education of type II schools in Sri Lanka.

