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A Study to Ascertain the Senior Secondary  
Level Students ' Interest in the Subject of Mathematics  
( Based on a Sample of Students in  
Years 9,10,11 drawn from schools in Kegalle District )

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## Abstract

This study was launched to ascertain the senior secondary level students' interest in Mathematics, based on sinhala medium students in Kegalle District. Sampling was done according to stratified sampling theories and the sample consisted of 540 students. Six objectives are expected to be achieved through this study. Survey research methodology is used in collecting data with the help of an interest inventory for ranking the interest in Mathematics, a problem checklist, a questionnaire for teachers and interviews as its research instruments. Chi-square test is used as a statistical tool in order to find the significance in responding to Nine fields in the problem check list. It is revealed, based on the sample, that the rank given to Mathematics is the fourth place. Problem checklist findings show that the teachers' influence takes the first place while the field which covers the facilities given by the school goes to the last place as far as the positive influence of interest is concerned. Boys and girls are in the same accord in ranking fields of factors which have negative influence on interest. It is also revealed that the present process of teaching Mathematics in the senior secondary level is not functioning at an optimum level.