

A Study of Mathematics Anxiety of High Ability of Grade Ten Students

Hmwe Hmwe Ko¹ and May Zin Oo²

Abstract

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the Mathematics Anxiety level of high ability Grade ten students. This study was conducted with the objectives of investigating the relationship between high ability students and their mathematics anxiety which were divided into four categories. This study utilized questionnaire survey method to examine the relationship between mathematics anxiety and high ability students. A total of 100 students from the selected three high schools participated in this study. The students who attained high marks in total test scores of six subjects from monthly tests were selected as high ability students. Data were collected using the Fennema-Sherman Mathematics Anxiety Scale (MAS). The MAS was modified into Myanmar version. The MAS comprises 12 items under four categories: "Thinking about Mathematics", "Taking Mathematics Test", "Learning Mathematics" and "Solving Mathematics Problem". The findings of the research pointed that 75% of the students showed great anxious for "Thinking about Mathematics problem Category". Their fear of thinking about mathematics problem and learning mathematics was greater than their fear in solving mathematics and taking mathematics test. According to mean scores, the girls were more anxious than the boys among four categories of Mathematics Anxiety Scale.

Key words: anxiety, mathematics anxiety and mathematics anxiety scale.

1. Assistant Lecturer, Department of Educational Psychology, Yangon Institute of Education
2. BEd Fourth Year Student, Yangon Institute of Education