FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO A LOW UPTAKE OF MATHEMATICS BY ORDINARY LEVEL STUDENTS.

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Abstract

This research project seeks to unveil factors that contribute to the low uptake of mathematics by Ordinary level students. It also seeks to establish any gender differences that characterise uptake of mathematics. A sample of 65 pupils was chosen by purposive and stratified random sampling from three secondary schools. Questionnaires were given to the respondents to complete. Interviews were held by the researcher. Data from interviews was used to address why there was low uptake of mathematics by pupils and if there are any gender differences in the uptake of mathematics. It was established that with an increase in pupil’s awareness of the importance of mathematics in the world of work, more pupils are taking up the subject. However some still feel that it’s a challenging subject. A donation of books from the ministry beefed up school resources such that a lot more pupils access these learning materials. Girls and boys are equally taking up the subject, thus there is no gender influence in taking up mathematics. It is thus recommended, mathematics teachers and all concerned should continue to mould pupils’ attitude towards mathematics, and then can focus on pass rates begin.