

EXAMINING MATHEMATICS TEACHERS' USE OF MODELING APPROACHES FOR SOLVING WORD PROBLEMS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF BENSANGUL GUMUZ REGION

LEMI MOGES & HABETAMU SHENKUTE

College of Natural and Computational Science, Department of Mathematics, Assosa University, Ethiopia

ABSTRACT

This paper was intended to examine Mathematics teachers' use of modeling approaches for solving word problems in the Case of some selected secondary schools of Benshangul-Gumuz Region. The study was employ descriptive survey method. Benishangul-Gumuz region is one of the regions of Ethiopia. The region is divided in to three zones. From total number of 1114 (male 962 and female 152) secondary school teachers of Benshangul Gumuz region, 144 (138 males and 6 females) all secondary school mathematics teachers were the population of the study. These 11 weredas were selected using stratified sampling technique, by the researchers to include all administrative towns of each Zone and have relatively high number of teachers. So, a total of 107 (104 males and 3Females) mathematics teachers were sample selected, by using available sampling technique and were used for the analysis. Additionally, Six FGD was held on some selected secondary schools, by using purposive sampling technique and for interviewee, one teacher was selected and interviewed from each weredas. The researchers used different analysis procedures like, frequency, percentage, and mean. Thus, the findings indicate that, the overall respondents' attitude towards word problem solving has mean 3.09 and standard deviation 1.210, which is medium attitude. In addition to this, the result showed that, the first challenging step is problem translation, the second is problem integration, the third is solution planning and the last challenging step is solution execution. Additionally, the result obtained from interview and FGD indicate that, most of the respondents agreed that, solving word problems is very useful for solving problems in everyday life and they understood that, word problems have great importance to a country's development and helpful in understanding today's world. Finally, based on the findings of the study, we recommended that, teachers need to develop positive attitude and avoid the challenges on modeling approaches towards solving mathematical word problems. So, concerned bodies of the regional education bureaus and schools should give support by arranging and giving training for teachers, in order to increase and develop their positive attitude and be familiar with modeling approaches towards word problem solving.

KEYWORDS: *Examining, Mathematics –Teachers, Modeling Approaches & Solving-Word Problems*

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