SELF-ESTEEM AND ARITHMETIC SKILLS AMONG FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

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Self-esteem is a vital trait that enables people to feel successful, capable, and valuable regardless of their weaknesses and failures. Self-esteem is a persistent desire that drives everyone's behavior. This study aimed to determine the significant relationship between self-esteem and arithmetic skills among first-year students enrolled in STEM-related programs. One hundred seventy-nine first-year students enrolled in STEM-related programs participated in the study at Davao del Sur State College. To address the study's research aims, the researcher employed a descriptive-correlational research design. The research study was performed using an adapted survey questionnaire. The findings of the study revealed that the level of students' self-esteem in learning mathematics in terms of self-significance was characterized as high while self-capabilities, success, and worth were characterized as average. Whereas, the level of students' arithmetic skills in learning mathematics was interpreted as

satisfactory. Additionally, the results of the study show a significant relationship between self-esteem and arithmetic skills. Based on the findings of the study, it emphasizes the complex relationship between students' self-esteem and their arithmetic skills in learning mathematics. Stakeholders are encouraged to prioritize activities to enhance students' self-esteem in learning mathematics, focusing on creating holistic strategies, personalized support, open communication, and exploring underlying factors for future research.

Keywords: *Self-esteem, arithmetic skills, academic performance, mathematics, students*