Exceeding Mathematics: Knowledge in Mathematical Symbols and Algebraic Expressions of Freshmen Students in Naval State University

Claire Theresa S. Bentor[1]

[1]Instructor, Naval State University, Naval, Biliran, Philippines

***Abstract*:** *This study assessed the knowledge in mathematical symbols and algebraic expression of freshmen students in Naval State University. Employing the descriptive-survey design, there were 150 student-respondents who a standard questionnaire about their mathematical symbols comprehension skill and ability on assessing algebraic expression. The respondent's profile revealed that most of them are female with an average age of 17 years old in which they are expected to think abstractly, ideally, logically and presumed to possess skills on recognition symbols according to Piaget, but showed a weak symbolic thinking greatly influenced by their biological build up. Although they did not exhibit a very good level of understanding of algebraic expressions, they were still successful in manipulating this competency knowing that operation on algebraic expression does not require deeper recognition of the symbol itself. Significant relationship existed between the respondents' profile and their comprehension skill of mathematical symbols. Since the female group showed weaker understanding and comprehension on both mathematical symbols and algebraic expression, it was recommended that curricula, instructional materials and teaching strategies should be designed in accordance to gender equality since Mathematics was found to be one of the male-dominated subjects*

Keywords: *mathematical symbols; algebraic expressions; gender equality; teaching strategies; naval state university*

https://doi.org/10.17758/ERPUB3.UH0119441