

POPULARISATION OF MATHEMATICS* (Pempopularan Matematik)

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ABSTRACT

Mathematics is generally regarded as the most dry subject at school, made up of routine, difficult, boring, arcane and irrelevant calculations which have nothing to do with discovery and imagination. You may have noticed how terms in mathematics have an unnerving effect on most students as well as the public. “Dull” and “Urgh” are the most common epithets often used to describe the subject. Whether we realise it or not, mathematics is around us, in our everyday life, and we are using the subject. Mathematics exists in nature. Mathematics is used in the kitchen; when we do our shopping, build a house, travel on the highway, and in whatever things that we do. Even then, whenever we talk about mathematics, many fear the subject; they have the mathematicophobia, and try to avoid the subject. The fact is that, mathematics is a part of our life. We have to make the public aware of this. This is the duty of mathematicians or mathematical scientists. Popularisation of mathematics could be done at various levels in the society, young and old, and wherever we are; at home, nurseries, schools, universities, offices, supermarkets, and on the highways. In this paper we will discuss how this could be achieved.

Keywords: Mathematicophobia; popularising mathematics; various levels in the society

ABSTRAK

Matematik pada umumnya dianggap sebagai mata pelajaran yang amat menjemukan di sekolah, yang terdiri daripada penghitungan rutin, susah, membosankan, penuh misteri dan tidak relevan, dan tidak kena mengena dengan penemuan dan khayalan. Mungkin anda sedari bagaimana perkataan matematik mempunyai kesan negatif pada kebanyakan pelajar dan juga orang awam. “Membosankan” “Urgh” dan “Alamak” adalah kata-kata lazim yang dikaitkan dengan mata pelajaran ini. Sama ada kita sedar atau tidak, matematik berada di sekeliling kita, dalam kehidupan kita seharian, dan kita menggunakannya. Matematik wujud secara semula jadi. Matematik digunakan di dapur, semasa kita membeli belah, membina rumah, melalui lebuhraya, dan dalam apa jua yang kita lakukan. Namun demikian, apabila disebut sahaja mengenai matematik, ramai yang takut akan mata pelajaran itu, matematikofobia, dan cuba menghindarinya. Hakikatnya, matematik adalah sebahagian daripada hidup kita. Kita perlu menyedarkan masyarakat mengenai perkara ini. Ini adalah tugas ahli matematik atau ahli sains matematik. Pempopularan matematik boleh dilakukan pada pelbagai tahap dalam masyarakat, kanak-kanak hingga dewasa, dan di mana sahaja kita berada; di rumah, tadika, sekolah, universiti, pejabat, pasar raya, dan di lebuhraya. Dalam makalah akan dibincangkan bagaimana perkara ini dapat dilaksanakan.

Kata kunci: Matematikofobia; mempopularkan matematik; beberapa tahap dalam masyarakat

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