

## **THE CIRCULAR MODEL FOR SHARING THE BLAME FOR STUDENTS' UNDERPERFORMANCE IN MATHEMATICS IN SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The students' performance in mathematics is cause for concerns for parents and the state alike. This subject is the one which everyone in the spectrum of any educational system takes in primary and secondary school. There is no doubt of the importance of mathematics in life. Most people would agree that they use daily in their workplace either one or some of the many topics of mathematics including the Pythagorean theorem, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, properties of angles, continuity, probabilities, frequency, distribution statistical inference. Beside the highlighted importance of mathematics in future, learners are still failing the subject at a higher rate. This leads to tracing the reasons for the unfortunate situation. While people think we need to blame the learner, since they are at the centre of education for their poor performance; This paper is aiming at showing the manner the blame for the student's underperformance in mathematics in South African schools should be shared among the stakeholders. Unless we understand the origin of the problem and realize that the responsibility to bring about positive changes rely equally on each and every stakeholder; no durable solution to the problem is possible. In our view there are two models in the way blame is passed from one stakeholder to another. A linear or vertical model of blame which assumes there is one party on top of the chain of knowledge and teaching techniques such that blame is just pushed down until it gets to the bottom of the chain. In this way no one accepts blame. In a constructive fashion, success or failure in our education system in general and particularly in mathematics results from a collective and equal task from each member; thus a circular model of sharing blame among stakeholders which implies that blame is equally shared. Each stakeholder lends a hand to solve the problem.

**Keywords:** Teaching of Mathematics, Students' Underperformance in Mathematics, Sharing Blame And Success For Educational Process.