# NUMBER PATTERN CALCULATOR INSTRUCTION LESSON: A TEACHERS' MATHEMATICS CLASSROOM REFERENCE RESOURCE 

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#### Abstract

This study demonstrates how number patterns can be used for calculator instructional lesson. The lesson's strengths are reflected by teachers' qualitative evaluation comments. The study contributes teacher learning material on calculator use for their professional development. The study is guided by qualitative case study research design utilising socio-cultural activity theory. Data were collected from the teacher's scheme of work, observation of three 20 minutes lessons separated by 15 minutes breaks and lesson evaluation discussions from the lesson's video by 46 mathematics teachers in five groups. The study found that: the demonstration lesson motivated participating teachers and learners to use calculators. The demonstrating teacher had a high pedagogical technology knowledge level (being proficient user of a calculator, understanding principles and techniques required to use the calculator to teach mathematics). The class environment was conducive (allowed learners to talk to each other or stand to consult a friend on the other desk). Every learner had a calculator. Demonstration charts were clear and visible from the back of the class. The teacher was enthusiastic, able to sequence content and reflect on investigative teaching methods. Teacher applied demonstration, directive, group and individual activities in the same lesson. Calculator application procedure notes on learners' cell phones brought the teacher on the child's side for a one-on-one tutorial. Study concluded that, calculators make mathematics exploration, experimentation and learning mathematics patterns possible and interesting. Collaborative inquiry was the framework of the lesson. Learners were motivated to learn in and out of the class. Some learners had challenges of low vision. They took time to identify [x2], [x3] and [yx] calculator keys. Those with thick fingers and ladies with long artificial finger nails pressed more than one key at a time. These experiences form assumed knowledge content for next lesson introduction.


Key Words: Calculators, mathematics, motivation, instruction lesson.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Introducing calculators to novice learners require an understanding of the learner, mathematics as a subject, mathematics teaching methods and knowledge of the calculator as an instructional tool. Consider that, the entry requirement for undergraduate degree programs differ from one university to another and program to program. In Zimbabwe, a University of Technology would not demand a very good pass in mathematics at O-level for a student majoring in Creative Art and Design. Some of them would have dropped mathematics before they wrote the O-level examinations. The

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dropping is a direct admission of failing before attempting. The majority of such students are not keen and have low level interest in mathematics as a subject. They are adults who need interesting approaches to introduce them to their Introduction to statistics course which is compulsory for their degree qualification. Because of the involvement of figures in the course, a scientific calculator is an indispensable tool. It is the duty of their teacher to introduce these learners to the calculator. Some of them will be seeing the calculator for the first time, let alone using it.

## The learner

Researchers' experiences as tutors for Introduction to Statistics for undergraduate students confirmed Salih's (2003) observation that adult learners are not big children. Therefore pedagogical skills (teaching and learning of children) are not accurate substitutes for andragogy (facilitating adult learners' learning). There is need to understand adult learners' characteristics and their learning behaviours as a basis for calculator contextualised instruction in mathematics.

Knowle's (1984) andragogy model provides a comfortable springboard. It has four assumptions which guide teachers as shown below:
a) Adult learners bring in valuable theories and concepts of mathematics and mathematics learning experiences from their previous encounters with the subject, instructional tools and its teachers. This assumption calls for pre-testing to determine the mathematics knowledge, attitude and level of interest and what the learner knows about calculators. What they can do, how they can do it and why, answers form a critical base for instruction. For instance, students who are weak at mathematics calculations can be motivated by this introduction lesson to calculators.
b) Adults need to know the purpose of their learning before they invest effort, time and their resources as the scientific calculator. There is no harm for the teacher to spell out the course and lesson objectives before the lesson. Actually students will be motivated to know that, they are learning to use calculators to improve their mathematics computations and use them as day to day tools for their small enterprising businesses. The strategy of providing lesson purpose provides targets for each student's self-evaluation and motivation.
c) Adults are used to making decisions in their everyday lives hence they expect to be selfdirected over the nature, content and approach to their learning. Teachers can provide course with options and vary teaching approaches. The application of lecture, individual and pair group work helps to meet these students' needs.
d) Adults learn more effectively when dealing with tasks and problems that they consider as real, related to and arising from the demands of their everyday lives. This calls for the teacher to free him/herself from the confines of textbook problem examples with foreign content to local examples.

From Rogers (2002: 15) we derive four adult learner categories; activists, observers, theorists and experimentalists. Each group has specific implications for mathematics instruction using a calculator as shown in the table below:

Table 1, Rogers (2002: 15) Adult learner, Learning Characteristics

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| Group | Characteristic and Instructional implications |
| :--- | :--- |
| Activists | Learn by involvement. Teacher can include varied calculator activities. In <br> statistics, they can collect data in a project to confirm say the correlation <br> between height and arm's length for a group. |
| Observers | These prefer to wait and watch what is going on before they decide to <br> engage themselves. Teachers can target them for group reports and exercise <br> evaluations. They need a friend to lean on for calculator exercise. Procedural <br> notes and pair discussions can cater for their needs. |
| Theorists | Such learners want to generalise from their experiences and apply what they <br> learn from one arena to the other. Teachers can make them lead groups in <br> real life problem solving tasks. They can be probed to establish number <br> patterns for calculator tasks. |
| Experimen <br> talists | Enjoy devising new approaches and try to see what happens. Focus them on <br> tasks which require different techniques. |

Critical for this study is the implication that, a group of undergraduate students can be composed of students at different points of the spectrum. Chinamasa and Munetsi (2012) concluded that, there are students who want to be taught everything, those who can be guided and those who want to find everything for themselves in one class.

Bell and Gilbert (1996) cited in frank (2009: 47) classified adult learners' learning strategies into three; surface, deep and strategic levels. Critical for this study is their learning strategies in table 2, below. It presents the two extremes with the hope that, teachers can strike a balance for the group in between them.

Table 2, Adult learners' learning strategies

| Learner Characteristic | Main concerns | Learning strategies |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Surface level student has limited mathematics background and may have no statistics or calculator use knowledge | Complete the course with at least (50\%) pass | -serious about writing notes and photocopying hand-outs for procedural knowledge -memorisation of fragmented facts -attends lectures and pays attention to all course content -aims to get the correct answer -buys a calculator for statistics -assimilates unaltered chunks of course material verbatim for regurgitation in the exam -uncomfortable with unfamiliar contexts |
| Strategic level student has knowledge of calculators and their use in statistics | Establish content for specific tests, evaluation and synthesis | -applies surface level approaches in a flexible combination contingent with perceived nature of task <br> -solves one problem using more than one approach and evaluates solutions |


|  |  | -can apply the calculator as a computation and <br> accuracy evaluation tool |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

One can deduce that, the students' mathematics background and natural characteristics determines the student's learning strategy. When teachers manage to plan and structure their instructional methods such that there is continuity, then learning is facilitated. On the other hand, if teaching of new mathematics is at variance with students' expectations then accommodating new concepts will be affected. The good thing is that Nyaumwe,( 2006) found that, teachers and students have positive dispositions to the use of calculators in mathematics.

## The Nature of Mathematics and Motivation

A teacher's perceptions of the nature and role of mathematics influence the teacher's mathematics instructional methods. According to Dossey (1992), there is a rich mosaic of conceptions of the nature of mathematics. Those with a flair for pure mathematics consider it a static field with known set of concepts. Such teachers emphasise textbook examples, lecture methods and recall of proofs. They have problems with the integration of technology because their source of pedagogical mathematics knowledge does not accommodate it.

Experimentalists are interested in applied mathematics. They believe that mathematics is a dynamic discipline changing as a result of discoveries from experiments and applications. Consequently mathematics relies on both logic and creativity, hence pursued for practical purposes and its' intrinsic value. Teachers who subscribe to this school free themselves from textbook examples and structure their own examples and problems. They are not afraid of trying out new teaching methods and technology. In fact they can investigate innovative methods for including calculators in the teaching of mathematics. It is this study's purpose to show how calculators can be introduced in class as a teaching and mathematics computation and motivation tool.

People find it difficult to separate the need for an answer and mathematics when mathematics is a unique subject in that problems have solutions with exact answers (Boley in Chinamasa 2012: 145). Actually, the answer that one gets in mathematics is either wrong or right. Being assisted by the calculator to get the correct or exact answer motivates the student. Atherton (2003) proposed that, motivation is the most important aspect of a successful student's memory in mathematics.

According to Kyriacou (2001: 60) motivation towards learning mathematics is a key determinant for the student's performance. It is also a source of their different attitudes to mathematics. Motivation to do mathematics can be from the mathematics subject itself. This is intrinsic motivation which can be developed by proper sequencing of the content. The desire for a good pass in mathematics is external motivation. It may be missing in students whose major area appears to be divorced from mathematics. Teachers need to apply calculators creatively as instructional tools to improve learner performance.

Posamentier (2013) suggested three groups of mathematics student motivation sources driven by the desire to understand the mathematics content concepts (task or subject related), outperform others (ego-related), impress and belong to a group of able (social-related). To promote any or all
of the following needs, a teacher can apply one or all of these strategies for motivating students in mathematics.
a) Identify the student's knowledge gap. A need for the subject content. This can be a simple task which calls for the subject content. For example, before introducing Cramer's rule for solving simultaneous equations, a teacher can ask learners to solve: $3 x+5 y=14$ and $2 x+$ $2 \mathrm{y}=8$ in four different ways which exclude graphical method. Students at O-level can identify and solve these equations by elimination, substitution, matrix inverse and now the fourth becomes the knowledge gap that motivates the student to want to learn Cramer's rule.
b) Present the mathematics subject content in a logical sequence of difficulty so that learners can establish the concept hierarchy incremental demand as challenging steps up the achievement ladder.
c) Guide the students to discover a pattern. It gives them an enlightening experience with a lasting effect. Posamentier (2013) suggests finding the sum of the first 100 numbers.
d) Present a challenge within reach of learners' ability. It must not be too difficult to detract them from the content of the day. When learners are challenged intellectually, they react with enthusiasm.
e) Suggest the utility value of the topic content by introducing a practical application problem. It should be brief and not complicated to motivate them.
f) Use recreational mathematics puzzles and games. They promote both the ego, social and task related motivation. Calculators can be very hand for this.
g) Get learners to be actively involved in their learning by allowing them to explore answers to satisfy their mathematical curiosity. This study shows how calculators can be introduced and used to maintain learners' interest.

Niess (2006: 200) supports the application of calculators in mathematics for the following reasons: a) calculators are motivating tools for those learners with computational limitations. (b) they are good at developing number senses in children. (c) they facilitate establishment of mathematical number patterns and relations. (d) they are a direct response to national standards for technology application. (e) technological knowledge and skills enhance mathematics application. (f) calculators improve students' interest, performance and confidents in mathematics. These merits associated with calculator application can only be realised if teachers have ideas of how they can introduce and use them in their mathematics lessons.

## Statement of the Research Problem

There are limited mathematics teachers' resources showing them how they can apply a calculator for mathematics instruction. In Zimbabwe, the O-level mathematics syllabus 4028/2 allows scientific calculators to be used in mathematics classes and examinations but does not say how. Calculators are sold with operation manuals which both teachers and students cannot read and understand. Currently (2021) mathematics learning and teaching is syllabus and text-book driven. It is teacher-centred consisting of transmission of mathematics concepts and procedures from teacher to student through a note book, online videos and posted notes. Online learning is more of the student recalling teachers' notes for in-class examinations. Awkwardly the text-books in use do not give much attention to calculators, let alone how they are used. Teachers college curriculum
in Zimbabwe, overshadows the use of the calculator. Nyaumwe (2006) found that teachers have a positive disposition for the calculator version but were not prepared for the new technology.

In another study, Amanyi and Sigme (2016) concluded that, teachers have positive perceptions towards use of calculators for mathematics instruction, hence can integrate them in mathematics teaching and learning. Ouko (2004:23) observes that, teaching innovative practices like use of calculator, always places the teacher in some new role which require staff development support. Regrettably, a few mathematics teachers were trained in the use of graphic calculators. These are more expensive and rare in schools. ZIMSEC disallowed them rendering those teachers' skills to use graphic calculators obsolete. The absence of scientific calculator knowledge leaves teachers and learners unable to read and apply calculator manuals. They resort to the use of trial and error and trial and success in the application of their calculators. It is this study's purpose then, to contribute the how a calculator lesson can be planned and conducted. It is important for mathematics classroom instruction. The paper can also be part of teachers upload material.

## Research Questions

The study answers the following operational questions:
a) How does a lesson plan for a lesson including calculators look like?
b) How are calculators used to motivate learners?
c) What are teachers' evaluation comments for observations of a lesson which introduces calculators using number patterns in the mathematics class?

## Research Objectives

The study intents to:
a) Present an example of a lesson plan for introducing calculators in mathematics.
b) Illustrate the use of calculators to motivate learners in mathematics.
c) Establish teachers' evaluation comments for a lesson introducing calculators.

## Significance of the Study

This paper demands recognition for improving mathematics teaching and technology application as a teachers' resource. In addition, the paper contributes knowledge of how calculators can be introduced in a mathematics class. This is a needy area which helps teachers integrate technology in the classroom. The study improves the teacher's teaching methods and confidence in the use of calculators in mathematics lessons. It provokes lectures in teachers' colleges to write similar modules for their pre-service teachers. Finally, the study contributes part of a national mathematics teachers' resources shortage solution.

## 2.METHODOLOGY

## Research design

The study was guided by a qualitative case study research design utilising socio-cultural activity theory. According to FitzSimons (2008), in socio-cultural activity approaches, the unity of analysis is the activity itself (lesson observation and evaluation discussion), undertaken by a group of people (mathematics teachers) in order to satisfy a motive (learn how to introduce and use a calculator in a mathematics class). Various actions are undertaken to achieve a range of goals
supporting the activity. The study is an Action qualitative research in that, researchers are key instruments for data collection (White, 2005). The lesson is studied analysed and reported as a whole to project the whole picture. Data is collected in the natural teaching environment without disturbing anything in the system. Participants' actions depend on unconscious operations or skills.

It is a social case bounded within a class and focused on activities revealing how the calculators can be introduced. Bryman (2001) requires case study researchers to explore a single entity (the case) bound by time and activity (calculator lesson) and collects detailed information by using a variety of data collection procedures. This facilitates method triangulation which is a critical aspect for the trustworthiness of qualitative data.

## Population and Sampling

The population of this study is composed of human and material sources. Since the purpose of the study is to understand and not generalise findings White (2005:37) said, "a single case is adequate." In qualitative research sample size is not an issue. Data is collected until the researcher is satisfied of having reached a variable saturation point. For this study, a purposive sample of one lesson taught in three sessions was adequate. A census of twenty- seven (27) mathematics teachers who attended the workshop evaluated the lesson from a video to deduce appraisal lessons for other teachers is adequate.

One teacher taught three 20 minutes lessons separated by two 15 minutes breaks for this study. Twenty- five (25) students participated as learners in the mathematics class. These were registered for Creative Art and Design degree at a University of Technology. The inclusion criterion for these purposive samples was being a rich source of ignorance in calculator application in mathematics, available and willing to participate. A real class of students improved the reliability and ecological validity of the findings. According to Nyawaranda (2013) reality is a critical aspect of trustworthiness in qualitative studies.

## Instruments and Materials

Instruments used for the collection of this study's data include, a document analysis schedule and observation guides and. Document analysis guide focused us on the scheme of work for the lesson. It required us to identify the lesson's objectives, activities, calculator introduction action and use. Observation guide directed our attention to classroom set up, teacher utterances, teacher- student and student-student interactions. Observation guide also required us to note when other teaching aids were introduced and used, their visibility and effectiveness. These instruments were structured by researchers for this study.

Calculators and audio-video recorders were the technical materials required for the study. These were provided by the institution for this study. All participants had a SHARP (EL-531WH) D.A.L. scientific calculator model. The teacher recommended this model because it is programed to use Direct Algebraic Logic. Instructing it follows the logical operations of mathematics. Participants kept the calculators as part of their benefits for participating in the study. The gesture satisfied the beneficence ethical principle.

## Data Collection

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Data collection started by seeking permission from the institution, teacher and ministry of education which hosted the mathematics teachers' workshop under Better Schools Program (BSPZ). Two video camera photographers were hired. The next stage involved lesson observations. These were video-taped with the permission of the teachers.

Observations are used when participants (teacher and learners) are too involved to be able to objectively describe their activities (interactions and engagements with learning materials). More important is that, observations are proper when the variable indicator is action. Observation descriptions must be factual, accurate and thorough. Leedy and Ormrod (2001) suggest that, the purpose of observational data is to describe the setting, activities, participants and their participation. Hence lesson observation was the appropriate data collection method for the purpose of the study.

Interviews were also done with the teacher and students during tea-break and after the lesson. The main purpose was to capture clarifications of teacher actions and why such an act or utterance. Learners provided instant feedback on their lesson. It mainly covered what they enjoyed and challenges that they experienced with calculators.

Photographs of some of the scenes were taken to bridge the limitations of descriptive language. A camera captures authentic images which portray the reality of that moment for later analysis. White (2005:164) describes the use of photographs as a way of capturing those aspects of life which cannot be described by way of words. More important is the fact that, photographs present and display what it was as it was for readers to make their own interpretations.

After a week the video was played three times at a Better Schools Program for mathematics teachers' technology orientation workshop. The teachers were divided into five groups of at least five teachers each for Focus Group Discussions. Each group was asked to appraise the lessons and suggest lessons for other teachers from the videos. Focus group discussions are ideal for capturing common group perceptions.

## Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis for qualitative studies can be done simultaneously with data collection. For example, researchers recorded common points raised by focus groups while they were presenting for a group report. Students' views were captured during tea-break. The overall data analysis was carried out following this sequence; reading through all the notes, classifying findings according to research questions, arranging the findings and describing.

Presentation was defined by the nature of the variable. Mathematics teachers' teaching experience (in years) is a quantitative continuous variable. It is presented on a frequency density graph. The lesson plan was considered as the teacher's road map of what students need to learn and how they learn it. The how part shows step-by- step methods for introducing calculators. To reduce distortions, the lesson plan was typed and presented as it was. Comments are transcribed verbatim to allow readers to deduce more from the semantics used. Lessons deduced are summarised in tables. Photograph presented what actually transpired. It is presented particularly for readers to deduce more information about the learners' engagement in learning with calculators.

## 3.STUDY FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Figure 1, Teacher distribution by Teaching Experience
$\mathrm{N}=29$


The graph shows that, the majority of participants (including researchers) have mathematics teaching experience ranging between ( 6 to 10) years. These teachers are conversant with mathematics lesson observations. Their evaluations are valid. Another aspect to note is that teacher experience distribution's has positive skewedness. This could be accounted for by the migration of mathematics teachers from Zimbabwe to neighbouring countries for greener pastures and expert export. Mathematics teachers' participation in this workshop is part of the knowledge sharing to improve technology implementation and quality of mathematics teaching and learning.

## Lesson Plan

Topic: Calculator Introduction

## Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, learners should be able to:
a) Use calculators informally for addition of whole numbers up to 15 (Magic Square)
b) Establish number patterns for squared whole numbers ending with $5,\left(15^{2}=225\right)$
c) Apply calculators to square numbers using direct keys $\left[x^{2}\right]$,
d) Identify a calculator key for a general rule for raising any number to any power $\left[y^{x}\right]$

Materials: Projector, 28 calculators, paper and pencils, cell phones, chart showing calculator keys to be used

| Lesson Conception activity | Activity | Teacher activities $\quad$-Learner | Lesson Core points and Teaching hints |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lesson 1 <br> Magic Square adding to 15 | -add 3 whole numbers from 1 to 9 to a sum of 15 | -Teacher presents task (Magic Square) <br> -Learners draw squares on paper and | Task: Given natural numbers 1 to 9 , fit them in the magic square so that any three squares added in a straight line add up to 15 . |

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|  | -use mental abilities cell-phones, calculators -establish pattern | create the magic square <br> -Checking of answer individually by peer or teacher (collaboration) -learners establish pattern -learner presents correct answer to class <br> -Teacher project the correct solution and illustrate the pattern | -learners use familiar instruments informally -explore calculator keys and their output <br> -individual, peer and teacher checking (sum 15) <br> -pattern requires 5 at the centre square $1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9$ <br> $1+5+9$ <br> $2+5+8$ Rotation of any of $3+5+7$ these 3 in the $4+5+6[9$ squares <br> Note: 1,2,3,4, down wards <br> And 6,7,8,9 upwards |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Break | Break | Break | Break |
| Lesson 2 <br> Pattern for Square Numbers Ending by 5: $15^{2}, 25^{2}, 35^{2} \ldots 95^{2}$ | -compute the square of numbers using pen-pencil, cell-phone' calculators | -Teacher links sum of magic square 15 to squaring 15 i.e. $15^{2}$ -challenges learners to square : $25,35,45$, $55,65,75,85,95$ and find a pattern -Learners work as individuals, pairs or groups | Task: Find a pattern for finding the answers to: <br> $5^{2}, 15^{2}, 25^{2}, 35^{2}, \ldots \ldots 95^{2}$. <br> Does the pattern work for squaring all numbers, e.g. $43^{2}$ <br> -Teacher lead deduction of pattern in pattern column <br> (See lesson 2, Pattern <br> Teaching hints Appendix 1) |
| Break | Break | Break | Break |
| Lesson 3 <br> Calculator Introduction | -identify numeric <br> keys ( $1,2, \ldots . .9$ ) <br> -Identify functional keys $\left[y^{x}\right]\left[x^{2}\right]$ and $\left[x^{3}\right]$ on calculators -use functional keys for computations of $45^{2}, \quad 65^{2}, \quad 15^{3}, \quad 25^{3}$, $35^{4}, 45^{6}$ | -teacher projects image in board -ask learners to identify numeric keys, function keys and what they do -allows learners time to explore and exhaust curiosity <br> -Teacher focus students on $\left[y^{x}\right]\left[x^{2}\right]$ and $\left[x^{3}\right]$ keys and uses them for $15^{2}, 15^{3}, 15^{4}$, $15^{5}$ | Teacher to demonstrate $15^{2}$ by a) $\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ \times 15 \\ 150 \\ +\quad 75 \\ \hline \underline{225} \\ \hline \end{array}$ <br> b) $15^{2}=(1+1)$ then $5^{2}=225$ <br> c) $[1][5]\left[x^{2}\right]=225$ <br> d) $[1][5]\left[x^{3}\right]=3375$ <br> e) $[1][5]\left[y^{x}\right][3]=3375$ <br> f) $[1][5]\left[y^{x}\right][4]=50625$ <br> g) $[1][5]\left[y^{x}\right][5]=759375$ |

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|  |  | -learners write notes <br> on their cell phones |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Lesson Evaluation

The following lesson appraisal comments were collected from students and teachers who observed the lesson live and from videos:

1. Weaknesses
a) Cell phones detract students when used in class. A student can concentrate on something else instead of its use in the subject.
b) The 20 minutes given to each lesson was a bit less, some students were left behind, they could not cope with the pace.
c) Use of appropriate language and symbols such as Sum ( $\Sigma$ ) can improve the learning.
d) Some of the adult learners had challenges of low vision. They took time to identify $\left[x^{2}\right]$, $\left[x^{3}\right]$ and $\left[y^{x}\right]$ keys. Those with thick fingers and ladies with long artificial finger nails pressed more than one key at a time.
e) Planning such lessons is time consuming for mathematics teachers because of large classes, heavy teaching loads and marking daily.

## 2. Lesson's Strengths

a) Students were involved from start to end. Use of calculators promotes child-centred learning and persistence in mathematical tasks.
b) The three lessons' content dove-tailed into each other, with lesson 3 concluding with the formal application of calculators. Learners formalised computations which they were doing informally.
c) Content was well organised with difficulties increasing from one level to another, (mental addition of numbers up to 15 , rippled to multiplication of $15^{2}$ leading to the need for second functional calculator keys and operations) see lesson 3 notes. The flow of learning is logical and clear. In fact the idea of using 15 throughout shows teacher creativity.
Learners observed discussing calculator use out of the class


## Photo by researchers in the field

d) We did learn a lot as teachers from observing this lesson. The magic square pattern and squaring of multiples of 5 were new and exciting. We used the calculators to check the accuracy of those answers. That compelled us to use calculators. We got awareness and did learn how to use the calculator also.
e) The teacher's notes particularly on lesson 1, revealed the pattern clearly. Several patterns can be established from lesson 2 patterns.
f) Calculators foster growth of mathematical mind-set. Trying different strategies and getting correct answer (lesson 1) provides a sense of accomplishment, motivation and pride. Teachers should reward the trials rather than blame for incorrect answer.
g) This lesson motivated me to observe that, the numeric keys (left and right diagonals and the vertical and horizontal) add up to 15 . I am wondering why the order is like that. This lesson provoked me to be observant and get more inquisitive.
h) Students continued learning outside the class showing that they were motivated
i) Calculators boost learners' mathematical thinking as long as the teacher devotes sufficient time to teach them how to use them.
j) Calculators enhance exploring of number combinations without hassle.
k) In these lessons, learners used calculators as accuracy checking tools, exploring mathematical concepts and patterns.

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## Appendix 1. Lesson 2, Pattern teaching Hint

| Task | Pattern Column | Answer in parts |  | Answer as one |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $5^{2}$ | $(0+1) \times 0=0$ | 0 | 25 | $\rightarrow 25$ |
| $15^{2}$ | $(1+1) \times 1=2$ | 2 | 25 | $\rightarrow 225$ |
| $25^{2}$ | $(2+1) \times 2=6$ | 6 | 25 | $\rightarrow 625$ |
| $35^{2}$ | $(3+1) \times 3=12$ | 12 | 25 | $\rightarrow 1225$ |
| $45^{2}$ | $(4+1) \times 4=20$ | 20 | 25 | $\rightarrow 2025$ |
| $55^{2}$ | $(5+1) \times 5=30$ | 30 | 25 | $\rightarrow 3025$ |
| $65^{2}$ | $(6+1) \times 6=42$ | 42 | 25 | $\rightarrow 4225$ |
| $75^{2}$ | $(7+1) \times 7=56$ | 56 | 25 | $\rightarrow 5625$ |
| $85^{2}$ | $(8+1) \times 8=72$ | 72 | 25 | $\longrightarrow 7225$ |

