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Mathematics Education

MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS USED IN HUNTING METHODS BY VEDDAS IN SRI LANKA

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Indigenous people hold great significance as the first inhabitants, laying the foundation for the region's heritage and culture. The Veddas are the indigenous people of Sri Lanka. However, studies conducted on the application of mathematical concepts in their hunting practices are scarce. Therefore, this qualitative study was conducted to identify the mathematical concepts used in the methods of hunting. Data on hunting practices were collected through semi-structured interviews with six adult males from Dambana, Sri Lanka. Thematic analysis was conducted, and the emerging themes were the application of various mathematical concepts in hunting equipment, techniques, and factors affecting hunting. Findings revealed that the Fibonacci number pattern was used in crafting bows and arrows (3, 5, and 8), whereas the trajectory of arrows followed a path of a projectile. Relative velocity played a major role in aiming and shooting animals, which the Veddas describe by observing the animal's jumps. Additionally, several other mathematical concepts, such as estimation, length and mass measurement, friction, centrifugal force, and dynamic force, were used in hunting. It can be concluded that the Veddas incorporate mathematical concepts into their hunting practices. However, one of the limitations of this study is the small sample size. It highlights the importance of conducting further research on these mathematical concepts used by Veddas to preserve them before they become obsolete.

Keywords: Hunting methods, Mathematical concepts, Vedda