

PROSPECTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GAMIFICATION IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS IN PANGASINAN II

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Abstract

This study aimed to assess the perceptions of mathematics teachers in the Schools Division Office of Pangasinan II regarding the potential of gamification to positively affect mathematics instruction and the readiness of schools to standardize its use in the teaching-learning process. A descriptive survey design was employed, with 187 mathematics teachers from elementary, high school, and senior high school levels selected through random sampling with proportional allocation. A validated survey tool was used to gather data, and responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics, specifically the mean and standard deviation, to determine the teachers' perceptions on various aspects of gamification. The findings indicated that teachers perceived gamification as having a very high potential to positively influence mathematics instruction, with particularly strong impacts on student engagement, motivation, and skills acquisition. The potential effect on higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) was also considered high, although slightly lower compared to other areas. Regarding the readiness of schools to standardize gamification, high readiness levels were observed in teacher competence, student engagement, and inclusivity. However, the study revealed lower levels of readiness concerning administrative support. Based on these findings, the study recommends the proposal of a training design for a seminar focused on the standardization of gamification in mathematics instruction, aimed at enhancing teacher readiness and institutional support.

Keywords: *Gamification, Mathematics Instruction, Teacher Perception, Readiness, Higher-Order Thinking Skills (HOTS), Educational Technology, Descriptive Survey, Teacher Competence, Student Engagement, Administrative Support, Schools Division Office of Pangasinan II*

Introduction

The integration of gamification in education has gained significant attention in recent years due to its potential to enhance student engagement, motivation, and learning outcomes. Gamified learning environments, where game elements are used to facilitate educational objectives, have been shown to improve critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and overall academic performance (Gómez-Maureira & Kniestedt, 2019; Booc, 2019). However, as traditional Filipino games decline in popularity, partly due to the rise of video gaming, there is a pressing need to explore how modern gamification strategies can be applied in educational settings to address this shift and preserve cultural heritage. Moreover, recreational activities, including games, have been linked to improved public health and well-being, further emphasizing the importance of gamified approaches in education (Heesch et al., 2015).

In the field of mathematics education, gamification offers a promising avenue to combat challenges such as math anxiety, which negatively impacts students' performance and engagement (Lorenzen, 2017; Lutzenberger et al., 2018). Studies have shown that game-based learning (GBL), especially when applied to mathematics instruction, can foster motivation and improve cognitive development (Bloom et al., 1956; Ahmad & Iksan, 2021). However, the

effectiveness of gamification varies based on the learning environment, individual student profiles, and the specific design of the game elements (Fardo, 2014; Dichev & Dicheva, 2017). Some studies have found mixed results, with factors like student personality and preferences affecting the outcomes of gamified interventions (Codish & Ravid, 2014; Jia et al., 2016).

Despite these promising findings, the localized application of gamification in mathematics instruction remains underexplored, particularly in the region of Pangasinan. There is a noticeable gap in research addressing the perceptions of mathematics teachers regarding the potential benefits of gamification and their readiness to implement it within the context of their schools. Additionally, while there are studies supporting the positive effects of gamification on student engagement and learning, little has been done to evaluate how schools in Pangasinan can standardize the use of gamification across their mathematics curricula.

This study aims to fill this gap by assessing the perceptions of mathematics teachers in Pangasinan regarding the potential of gamification to positively affect mathematics instruction. Furthermore, it will examine the readiness of schools in the region to standardize the implementation of gamification. Through this investigation, the study will provide valuable insights into the feasibility of integrating gamification into mathematics education and propose strategies for overcoming challenges that may arise in the process.

By addressing these issues, the study will contribute to the development of an evidence-based framework for the broader adoption of gamification in mathematics instruction, ensuring that its implementation is both effective and sustainable in improving student outcomes.

Statement of the Problem

This study assessed the perception of teachers regarding the implementation of gamification in the teaching-learning process.

Specifically, it aimed to answer:

1. What is the respondents perception on the potential of gamification to positively affect mathematics instruction?
2. What is the respondents perception on the readiness of the school to standardize the implementation of gamification in mathematics instruction?
3. What actionable recommendation may be proposed based on the findings?

Method

Research Design

This study employed a descriptive survey design to explore the perceptions of mathematics teachers in the Schools Division Office of Pangasinan II regarding the potential of gamification to positively affect mathematics instruction and the readiness of schools to standardize its implementation. Descriptive surveys are effective for gathering information about participants' attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors in a systematic manner (Fraenkel, Wallen, & Hyun, 2019). This design allows for the collection of quantitative data, which can be used to describe the characteristics of a larger population from a representative sample.

Participants

The participants in this study were 187 mathematics teachers from elementary, high school, and senior high school levels within the Schools Division Office of Pangasinan II. The selection of participants was done through random sampling, ensuring that every teacher had an equal chance of being chosen. A proportional allocation of samples was made per school to reflect the distribution of teachers across different levels (elementary, high school, and senior high school). This method allowed for a representative sample that accurately mirrors the population

structure, ensuring the generalizability of the results to the broader group of mathematics teachers in the Division.

Instrument

A validated survey tool was developed to gather the data for this study. The instrument consisted of structured questions aimed at assessing the teachers' perceptions regarding the potential of gamification to positively affect mathematics instruction and the readiness of schools to implement gamification. The survey included both Likert-scale items (ranging from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree") and open-ended questions to capture both quantitative and qualitative data.

The instrument underwent expert validation to ensure its content validity. A panel of subject-matter experts in educational technology, gamification, and mathematics education reviewed the survey items. Their feedback was used to refine the questions and ensure that the instrument accurately captured the research variables (Best & Khan, 2006). Additionally, the reliability of the survey was assessed using Cronbach's alpha, a measure of internal consistency. A Cronbach's alpha value of 0.80 or higher was considered acceptable, indicating that the items within the instrument were reliably measuring the constructs of interest (Fraenkel et al., 2019).

Data Collection Procedure

The survey was administered to the selected mathematics teachers after obtaining permission from the Schools Division Office of Pangasinan II. Teachers were informed about the purpose of the study, and they were given adequate time to complete the survey. Participation was voluntary, and teachers were assured that their responses would remain confidential and used solely for research purposes.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were central to this study. First, all participants were informed of the study's objectives and their rights as participants through an informed consent process. Teachers were made aware that participation was voluntary and that they could withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences. Furthermore, confidentiality was maintained by ensuring that personal identifiers were not linked to the survey responses. The data collected were stored securely and analyzed in aggregate form to preserve anonymity.

The study also adhered to ethical guidelines established by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or similar governing bodies in educational research. Teachers' rights to privacy and dignity were respected, and their participation did not involve any risk of harm.

Data Analysis

The data collected from the survey were analyzed using descriptive statistics to summarize the teachers' perceptions regarding the potential of gamification to positively affect mathematics instruction and the readiness of schools to standardize its use. Specifically, the mean (M) and standard deviation (SD) were calculated for each survey item to assess the overall perceptions and variations in responses among the participants. The mean provided an indication of the central tendency of the responses, while the standard deviation measured the spread or variability in the responses. These descriptive statistics allowed for an in-depth understanding of how teachers viewed the potential benefits of gamification in mathematics instruction and the perceived readiness of their schools to implement gamification. The results were then presented in tables and discussed in the context of the existing literature to identify key patterns and trends.

Limitations

It is important to note that the study's findings may be influenced by the self-reported nature of the survey, as teachers' perceptions may be subject to biases such as social desirability or personal experience. Additionally, while random sampling with proportional allocation enhances the representativeness of the sample, the results are still limited to the Schools Division Office of Pangasinan II and may not be directly applicable to other regions or educational contexts.

Results and Discussion

Perceived Potential of Gamification to Positively Affect Mathematics Instruction

The study assessed the perceived potential of gamification to positively affect various aspects of mathematics instruction, as evaluated by mathematics teachers. The following indicators were assessed: student engagement, motivation, conceptual understanding, problem-solving skills, higher-order thinking skills (HOTS), and overall academic performance. The results are presented using the Weighted Mean (WM) and are as follows:

Table 1. Potential of Gamification to Positively Affect Mathematics Instruction

Indicator	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
Student Engagement	4.60	Very High Potential
Student Motivation	4.75	Very High Potential
Conceptual Understanding	4.55	Very High Potential
Problem-Solving Skills	4.70	Very High Potential
Higher-Order Thinking Skills	4.30	High Potential
Overall WM	4.65	Very High Potential

The results show that gamification is perceived to have a very high potential to positively affect various aspects of mathematics instruction. The highest perceived impacts are seen in student motivation (WM = 4.75), student engagement (WM = 4.60), and overall academic performance (WM = 4.65). These findings are consistent with previous research that highlights the role of gamification in fostering greater student interest and involvement in learning activities. For instance, Darnanta et al. (2020) emphasized that gamified environments stimulate active participation, creating an enjoyable and engaging learning experience that keeps students motivated to succeed. Likewise, the study by Fardo (2014) supports the idea that integrating game elements into education leads to higher student engagement, thus enhancing learning outcomes.

Conceptual understanding (WM = 4.55) and problem-solving skills (WM = 4.70) also show very high potential, confirming that gamified learning environments can significantly enhance students' grasp of mathematical concepts and their ability to solve complex problems. This aligns with findings by Barros (2020), who demonstrated that serious games such as Tempoly improved students' mastery of polynomial operations and engagement in learning. Similarly, Khairuddin & Mailok (2019) noted that game mechanics aligned with learning goals significantly contribute to improving students' comprehension and ability to solve problems.

However, the perceived effect on higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) is slightly lower (WM = 4.30) compared to other indicators, though it still indicates a high potential. This result suggests that while gamification can certainly promote critical thinking, creativity, and the application of knowledge in novel contexts, it may require more careful design and integration to fully stimulate HOTS. Jang, Park, & Yi (2015) observed that the effectiveness of gamification on HOTS varies depending on the specific game mechanics and how they are integrated into the learning objectives. Moreover, studies such as those by Bloom et al. (1956) and Ahmad & Iksan (2021) suggest that gamification can foster higher-order thinking skills but may require teachers to provide additional scaffolding and structure within the gamified environment.

In conclusion, the results support the perception that gamification has very high potential to positively impact mathematics instruction in areas such as student engagement, motivation, and academic performance, with a slightly more moderate but still positive effect on the development of higher-order thinking skills. These findings are consistent with research that supports the use of gamification in enhancing various cognitive and emotional aspects of learning, particularly in the context of mathematics education. However, the findings also underscore the need for further exploration into optimizing gamification strategies for promoting HOTS, which remains an area for future development.

Perceived Readiness of Schools to Standardize the Use of Gamification in the Teaching-Learning Process

The study assessed the perceived readiness of schools to standardize the use of gamification in the teaching-learning process. The following indicators were evaluated: teacher readiness and competence, student engagement and feedback, inclusivity and accessibility, administrative support, technology and infrastructure, and professional development. The results are presented using the Weighted Mean (WM) and are as follows:

Table 2. Readiness of Schools to Standardize the Use of Gamification in the Teaching-Learning Process

Indicator	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
Teacher Readiness and Competence	4.50	High Readiness
Student Engagement and Feedback	4.60	High Readiness
Inclusivity and Accessibility	4.40	High Readiness
Administrative Support	3.10	Low Readiness
Technology and Infrastructure	3.85	Average Readiness
Professional Development	4.00	Average Readiness
Overall WM	4.08	High Readiness

The results indicate that schools in the study show high readiness in the areas of teacher readiness and competence (WM = 4.50), student engagement and feedback (WM = 4.60), and inclusivity and accessibility (WM = 4.40). These areas reflect the belief that teachers are prepared and competent to incorporate gamification into their teaching strategies, and that students are highly engaged with the interactive and participatory nature of gamified learning. The high perceived readiness in these areas suggests that the school environment is conducive to implementing gamification in a way that promotes active participation and feedback from students. This is consistent with findings by Malvasi et al. (2022), which emphasized that gamified learning methods increase student involvement and motivation, particularly in environments where teachers are skilled in using technology and interactive strategies.

Teacher readiness and competence (WM = 4.50) are a significant factor in the perceived readiness for gamification. Teachers' familiarity with gamification tools and their ability to integrate these into lesson plans are essential for successful implementation. This is supported by the findings of Vitabar et al. (2019), which suggest that teacher preparedness is a critical factor for the effectiveness of gamified education. The perception of high teacher readiness reflects a growing competence in adopting innovative teaching methods, particularly among mathematics educators who are keen to engage students with new technologies.

The high readiness level for student engagement and feedback (WM = 4.60) underscores the perception that gamified learning environments provide students with opportunities to interact more actively with the content. Gamification's ability to enhance student motivation and participation is widely recognized in educational research (Fardo, 2014; Darnanta et al., 2020). Students, in this case, appear to be more responsive to the gamified format, which aligns with studies that show how game-based learning can create more engaging and personalized learning experiences.

Inclusivity and accessibility (WM = 4.40) were also rated highly, suggesting that schools believe gamified learning can accommodate diverse student needs. Gamification can be adapted to support a range of learners, including those with special needs, making it a versatile tool in the classroom (Mohamed Rosly & Khalid, 2017). This finding is consistent with research showing that well-designed gamification can promote inclusivity by offering differentiated learning pathways for all students.

However, the results reveal low readiness in the area of administrative support (WM = 3.10), which indicates that schools perceive insufficient administrative backing for standardizing the use of gamification. This is a significant challenge for schools wishing to implement gamified learning at a larger scale. Administrative support is crucial for securing resources, ensuring alignment with curriculum standards, and advocating for the necessary changes in teaching practice. The lack of administrative support may stem from concerns about the long-term sustainability of gamified approaches or from a lack of understanding of their benefits. This finding aligns with previous research that highlights administrative support as a key barrier to the successful integration of innovative teaching methods (Dichev & Dicheva, 2017).

Technology and infrastructure (WM = 3.85) and professional development (WM = 4.00) were rated at an average level, indicating that while schools have some basic technological resources and some access to professional development opportunities, they may still lack the robust infrastructure or continuous training necessary for widespread gamification integration. This result suggests that further investment in both hardware (e.g., computers, software) and teacher training is needed to ensure gamification's success. As noted by Majuri et al. (2018), access to the right technology and ongoing professional development are essential for the effective implementation of gamified education.

The findings of this study indicate that while there is significant readiness in key areas such as teacher competence, student engagement, and inclusivity, there are critical gaps in administrative support and infrastructure that must be addressed for successful standardization of gamification in mathematics instruction. Schools in the area are optimistic about the potential of gamification but face challenges in securing the administrative and infrastructural backing necessary for large-scale implementation. Efforts to standardize gamification in the teaching-learning process should therefore focus on strengthening administrative support and investing in technology and professional development to ensure that gamification can be effectively integrated into the curriculum.

Recommended Action: Proposal of a Training Design for a Seminar on the Standardization of the Use of Gamification in Mathematics Instruction

Based on the findings of this study, the recommended action is the proposal of a Training Design for a Seminar on the Standardization of the Use of Gamification in Mathematics Instruction. The purpose of this seminar is to provide comprehensive professional development for mathematics teachers, administrators, and school staff, ensuring that they are equipped to effectively integrate gamified learning practices into the teaching process. The seminar will focus on enhancing educators' skills and providing resources to implement gamification in mathematics instruction, while also addressing the administrative and infrastructural challenges identified in the study.

The seminar will aim to enhance teacher competence in gamification by offering hands-on training in the use of gamification tools and platforms specifically designed for mathematics instruction. Teachers will learn how to incorporate game mechanics into their curricula to foster engagement and improve learning outcomes. The seminar will also cover how to adapt games to accommodate diverse student needs, including those with special needs, ensuring that gamification is inclusive for all learners.

A key component of the seminar will be to strengthen administrative support for the standardization of gamification in schools. Administrators will be engaged in discussions about the potential benefits and challenges of gamification, along with strategies for aligning gamified approaches with educational goals and standards. The seminar will provide administrators with the knowledge to advocate for the necessary resources and support to sustain gamified learning environments. Moreover, the seminar will address the technological and infrastructure needs for gamification by discussing how schools can leverage existing resources or plan for upgrades to ensure that gamification tools are accessible to all students. This session will also offer strategies for schools with limited resources to incorporate gamification affordably.

In addition, the seminar will focus on promoting student engagement and inclusivity through gamification. Teachers will be trained on how to enhance student motivation and participation in mathematics by incorporating gamified strategies. The seminar will explore methods to make gamified instruction accessible for diverse learners, ensuring equitable opportunities for all students to benefit from gamification.

The training will also provide opportunities for networking and collaboration among teachers and administrators. Participants will have the chance to share experiences and best practices in gamifying mathematics instruction, fostering a community of practice. This collaborative environment will help build collective knowledge and support for the standardization of gamification in mathematics education.

The structure of the seminar will begin with an introduction to gamification, including its principles and its potential to transform teaching and learning. Practical workshops will follow, where teachers will receive hands-on training in creating gamified lesson plans and utilizing popular gamification tools such as Kahoot, Quizlet, GeoGebra, and Minecraft Education Edition. A panel discussion will allow administrators and educators to discuss strategies for gaining school leadership support and securing necessary resources for gamification. Additional sessions will focus on addressing technology and infrastructure needs, followed by opportunities for feedback, reflection, and action planning.

To conclude, the proposal for a Training Design for a Seminar on the Standardization of the Use of Gamification in Mathematics Instruction seeks to bridge the gaps identified in the study, especially in the areas of administrative support and technological infrastructure. By providing both teachers and administrators with the knowledge and tools to effectively implement gamification, the seminar will prepare schools to standardize gamified learning in mathematics. This initiative will be a crucial step in enhancing the quality of mathematics education in the

Pangasinan region, ensuring that schools are equipped to leverage gamification's potential to improve student engagement and learning outcomes.

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