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How is Statistics Different from Mathematics? and Why Is the Distinction Important?

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Abstract

To promote the use of statistics as an information-gathering tool at the core of modern scientific method, the paper emphasizes the importance of actively integrating statistics in the education system. By providing a brief historical account of how statistics evolved as a scientific discipline, the study enumerates the fundamental differences in the application of statistics from mathematics. Moreover, the paper also examines a case study of the development of statistics in the education system of the Philippines. The study finds that the continued treatment of statistics as part of mathematics has stifled its development as a scientific discipline in the country. This has also overlooked the crucial role that statistics plays in the other non-mathematical fields such as social sciences, business, industry, and technology. The study concludes by outlining recommendations that can be taken towards improving the process of integrating the statistical curriculum in the Philippine education system.

Keywords: *CHED-Commission on Higher Education; NHERA-National Higher Education Research Agenda; HEI-Higher Education Institution; PSA- Philippine Statistical Association; SRTC-Statistical Research and Training Center; UPD-SS-University of the Philippines Diliman School of Statistics; UPLB-INSTAT- University of the Philippines at Los Baños Institute of Statistics; GAISE- Guidelines for the Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education.*