The Impact of Computer Use on the Teaching of Geometry in Grade 8

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ABSTRACT

The research on the efficiency of computer-assisted learning has provided contradictory results. The objective of the current study is to clarify the impact of using computer on learning results and the motivation of the students who learn Geometry in the 8th grade. The survey was carried out among the students of the 8th grades of four schools in Estonia in school year 2004/05. In the present paper, the students' performance in the experimental (N=116) and control classes (N=176) is compared. In addition to traditional methods of teaching, computers were used in teaching Geometry in the experimental classes. In the control classes the computers were not used. According to the research carried out in the area, the application of computers has not generated better results. As for the students' attitude to the learning process, it has been noted that the application of computers has definitely improved the students' attitude to Mathematics. The students of the experimental classes were posed a question if using computers has changed their attitude to Mathematics. Thirty two per cent of the students were of the opinion that the use of computers has improved their attitude to Mathematics. The students find that the use of computers makes studying more interesting, easier and more understandable.

Keywords
Computer-assisted learning, geometry**,** dynamic geometry system