Mathematics in society

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In the deep past of the human history, simple counting and arithmetic operations on natural numbers became imperative. This is evident from archaeological and historical records.

In contemporary times, Mathematics became the main research tool exploring all aspects of human activities. In particular, Mathematics is an important part of programmes taught at schools and universities all over the world.

Within the last two centuries, new mathematical subjects have been created and cultivated. Among these are: Abstract Algebra, Topology, Game Theory, Modelling, Computing, and earlier - Probability and Statistics.

Many new highly sophisticated and interesting professions have been created in the area of Mathematics and related subjects, such as Computing and Modelling. Expectations are continuously growing for new highly qualified professions generated by Mathematics.

Education has become an important part of the life style of the young generation today. This is why most governments, including the government of Botswana, pay so much attention to the development of education systems. It is considered to be a great advantage to become a student at a university, to live among peers and well-educated people. Also, it is a great privileged to have the opportunity of intellectual development studying Mathematics as a part of the Ideal World.

No young person can expect to find a better environment than the universities structures. However, it has to be said that high education in Mathematics, just as in other subjects, does not guarantee a career in personal life for all.

As a matter of fact, many young people choose their university curricula taking into consideration personal careers and higher incomes.

From the income point of view, Mathematics seems to be too abstract and not an interesting subject. This tendency was observed in ancient times. Let us quote Euclid (330- 275, BC) who was the Director of the Library and the Dean of Science at Alexandria University.

When a student asked Euclid: "Master, what shall I get if I learn your geometry?". Euclid called his servant and said, "Give him a coin (equivalent to one Pula) as a payment for his knowledge in geometry". On another occasion, King Ptolemy, who was a scientist and a friend of science, asked Euclid, "Is there a short cut to geometrical knowledge?" to which Euclid answered, "Sir, there is no royal road in geometry".

At that time, straight roads were built for kings and their armies only. Ordinary people used bush roads. Of course, in contemporary times Mathematics became one of the best professions in either sense.

Just as other areas of human activities, also in Mathematics, there exists negative influence of massive competitions for positions and promotions. Thousands of publications, books and articles are published every month, not all of them of good quality or inspiring interest. The great English writer and social philosopher, Bernard Shaw, expressed the opinion that all professions are conspiracies of elite, scientists and others, against ordinary people. The elite creates incomprehensive terminology to people and builds forbidding walls to protect themselves against criticism. On the other hand, progress in technology and science, including Mathematics, is necessary for a better life for all.

Naturally, in the areas of advanced research, especially in sciences such as Mathematics and Physics, definitions of new notions are developed and often not easily understood not only by ordinary people, but also by researche's of other disciplines.

Even people specialising in Statistics can hardly understand the language used in Abstract Algebra, although both subjects belong to Mathematics. Indeed, to understand great theories in Mathematics as well as other sciences, a solid extensive background is necessary. Let me finish this article by the following observation: Higher education in Mathematics opens a wide range of interesting professional work in many areas of research, teaching and applications. The pure nature of Mathematics and a variety of its applications make Mathematics an inspiring subject to study. To get a solid understanding of Mathematics, one needs to exercise enthusiasm and regular work alike.

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Ugandan Church

new organisations is Integrity Uganda, a chapter of Integrity USA, which represents the gay and lesbian community within the Anglican Church.

Integrity Uganda, which was founded in 2000 by a Ugandan reverend and his wife, Erich and Patricia Kasirye, has caused great controversy within the Church of Uganda. Father Erich and his Bishop are barred from exercising official ministry so long as they support Integrity Uganda and the equal presence of gay and lesbian people in the Church.

This controversial organisation - totally outside the institutional Church - has led the Church of Uganda to take a harder stand on homosexuality. The Church rejects homosexuality as a sinful action and has even explicitly denied homosexuals the right of a Christian burial.

The establishment of Integrity Uganda was aided by the Episcopal Church in America - the same church Archbishop Mpalanyi-Nkoyoyo has now severed relations with.

The public debate over homosexuality however has come to stay in Uganda - usually being a first sign of growing public acceptance. **(afrol News)**