

**SEE-I for Calculating the Mean****State:**

$$\bar{X} = \sum \frac{X}{n}$$

**Elaborate:**

The mean, or average, of a set of values is calculated by adding up all the values in the set (“summing” them) and dividing the summation by the *number* of values. The capital Greek letter  $\Sigma$  (pronounced “sigma”) is the symbol we use in mathematics to signify “summation”. The ‘bar’ over the X is used to signify “mean,” which is another word for “average”.

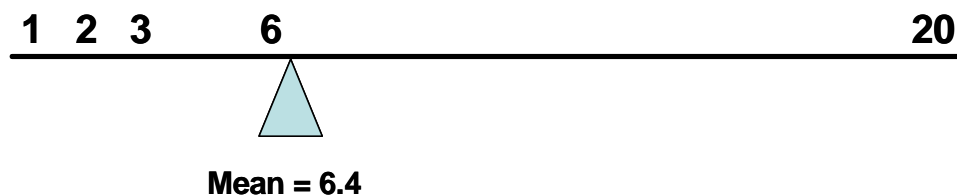
The mean is what is referred to as a descriptive measure for a set of data, i.e., it is one of a set of measures that is used to describe a set of data. The mean is useful for describing the ‘central location’ or ‘central tendency’ of a set of data. In other words, it tells us where the center of a set of numbers is located.

**Exemplify:**

For example, we have the following set of five values:

3   1   20   2   6

The total of these five values is 32 (the sum or summation) and the mean is then calculated by dividing 32 by 5 (the number of values), which comes out to 6.4. We round the mean to one more decimal place than the original values.

**Illustrate:**

We can think of the mean as the point on which the set of values would balance if they were spaced out proportionately along a beam.