

Professional Commitment among Student Teachers

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ABSTRACT

Teachers are the axle of entire educational system, they are the pillars of the society and the country. To build up the pillars in a right way, there is a need for splendid training during their teacher preparatory course. To equip student teachers with confidence and commitment, teacher education colleges play an imperative role. The major objectives of the study were to study the significant difference in professional commitment among student teachers with respect to their subject specialization and educational qualification Hypothesis was formulated on the basis of the objectives of the study. To carry out this study, B.Ed teacher trainees were chosen as the sample of the study. The total sample size is 1210 from 18 B.Ed colleges. Normative survey method was employed. The investigator developed a five point scale to assess the professional commitment of student teachers. The statistical test used to analyze the collected data involves t-test. This study concluded that the student teachers possess moderate level of professional commitment. There is no significant difference with regard to educational qualification of student teachers. But there is significant difference with regard to subject specialization of student teachers, in which U.G qualified student teachers score higher than the P.G qualified student teachers. Innovative programmes are to be provided to the student teachers to initiate their professional responsibilities. So curriculum is to be designed in the way to enhance the professional Commitment which reflects in their behaviour.

Keywords: Professional commitment, student teachers, teacher education, professional ethics, teacher preparation

INTRODUCTION

Teacher job satisfaction is a multifaceted construct that is critical to teacher retention, teacher commitment and school effectiveness. A teacher is the key figure in the building of a

nation. The task of a teacher is transaction of knowledge imparting the skill and the inculcation of values. The role of a teacher is very important for the development of the child. The importance of the quality of teachers should be overemphasized because the strength and success of an educational system depends on them whether they teach in schools, colleges or universities. Actually the quality of a nation depends on the quality of its citizens, quality of citizens depends on the quality of their education and quality of education depends on the quality of their teachers. The personal and professional qualities of a teacher influence their professional efficiency. More competent and committed teachers are required in the classroom because the best curriculum and the most perfect syllabus remain ineffective in the absence of a good teacher. Teacher education programmes prepare future teachers for lifelong learning and professionalism. So teachers and teacher educators have more commitments to create a good society.

Professional Commitment

A person's belief in the acceptance of the values of his or her chosen occupation or line of work and a willingness to maintain membership in that occupation. Professional commitment is the degree to which a person's work performance affects his self-esteem. To assess the professional commitment of student teachers, professional commitment scale was developed by the investigator. It has three dimensions namely, Intense, Zealous and Static. It comprises of 30 items with a five point scale. There are no negative items. The content validity of the scale was ensured with panel of experts in the field of education. The reliability coefficient test-re-test method was found to test the reliability of the tool. The tool was distributed to the same set of students after 15 days. The correlation coefficient 'r' was calculated as 0.9

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The quality of teaching depends a great deal on the level of teacher's involvement in relation to the professional commitment to the organization. One is part of the professional satisfaction that one feels. On the one side, the relation between the nature of the teaching activity and the work carried on in the professional community, the relations with peers, superiors, students' parent's leads to professional achievement and indirectly, it reflects in the achievements of one's students.

It is said that the teacher's reaction during teaching activity represents a complex pattern, including specific attitudes and behavior. A multitude of individual characteristics may affect their work reaction, aspirations, reasons, needs, perceptions, personality, ability to learn, creativity, as well as organizational characteristics, including working conditions, benefits, colleagues, leading style, education policy, promotion opportunities etc. These factors are inter-related and influence the teachers in attitudes and behavior. If the teacher really has passion towards their profession, they excel in the field of education. In today's scenario, every teacher has to face the challenges and compete with the modern world. To tackle this situation, one should have passion towards their profession. This passion encourages the young teachers to create new ideas and courage to face the challenges in the technological world. The teacher with more passionate work with more ethics and consider the education field as their own. Commitment is the psychological bonding between the person and his/her profession. Commitment is more common for all the professionals but especially the teachers.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To assess the level of professional commitment among student teachers
- ❖ To study the significant difference in professional commitment among student teachers in terms of subject specialization.
- ❖ To study the significant difference in professional commitment among student teachers in terms of educational qualification.

HYPOTHESES

- ❖ There is no significant difference in the professional commitment of student teachers in colleges of education in terms of subject specialization.
- ❖ There is no significant difference in professional commitment of student teachers in colleges of education in terms of educational qualification.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Normative survey method was applied to assess the professional commitment among student teachers. Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Ponneri and Vellore districts were chosen for data collection. Total sample size is 1210 student teachers from various B.Ed colleges. Sample includes 556 arts and 654 science and 811 UG and 399 PG students.

TOOL

Professional commitment scale was constructed by investigator with proper validation. The scale initially constructed with 45 items. After validation it was reduced by 35 items. The reliability of the tool is 0.9 by test retest method. To assess the content validity, the tool was given to the panel of experts in the field of education to determine, whether the items are relevant to various skills of the tool. The items were modified on the basis of their suggestions and recommendations. The final tool consists of 30 questions with the dimensions on Intense, Zealous and Static, thereby the content validity of the tool was established.

The investigator collected the data from 1210 student teachers. Necessary permission was obtained from the Heads of the respective colleges in advance for data collection. The tools were administered by the investigator. Each items provided with 5 point scale with scoring 5,4,3,2,1. The data were analyzed with mean, SD and t-test.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Level of Professional commitment student among teachers in colleges of education with respect to entire sample

Table 1

Level of Professional Commitment of Student Teachers in Colleges of Education

Variable	Low		Moderate		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Professional Commitment	325	26.9	505	41.7*	380	31.4

* indicates the level of professional commitment

Figure 1

Level of Professional Commitment of Student Teachers in Colleges of Education



From the above table, it is inferred the student teachers are 41.7% are professionally committed.

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference in the professional commitment of student teachers in colleges of education in terms of subject specialization.

Table 1.1

Difference in the Professional Commitment of Student Teachers in Colleges of Education in terms of Subject Specialization

Variable	Subject Specialization	N	Mean	S.D	Calculated 't' Value	'p' Value
Professional Commitment	Arts	556	99.48	9.05	1.10	0.26
	Science	654	100.07	9.50		

From the above table, it is inferred that the calculated 't' value is lesser than the table value, so the null hypothesis is accepted with regard to professional commitment of student teachers. Hence "There is no significant difference in the professional commitment of student teachers in colleges of education in terms of subject specialization".

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference in the professional commitment of student teachers in colleges of education in terms of educational qualification.

Table 1.2

**Difference in the Professional Commitment of Student teachers in Colleges of Education
in terms of Educational Qualification**

Variable	Educational • Qualification	N	Mean	S.D	Calculated 't' Value	'p' Value
Professional Commitment	UG	811	100.19	9.08	2.10	0.03*
	PG	399	99.00	9.680		

* significant at 0.05 level

Figure 2

Difference in the Professional Commitment of Student Teachers in Colleges of Education in terms of Educational Qualification



From the above table, it is inferred that the calculated 't' value is greater than the table value, so the null hypothesis is rejected with regard to professional commitment of student teachers. Hence "There is significant difference in the professional commitment of student teachers in colleges of education in terms of educational qualification" in which U.G qualified student teachers scores are higher than the P.G qualified student teachers.

SUMMARY OF FINDING

- ❖ Student teachers in colleges of education are found to be moderate (41.7%) in the psychological characteristics OF professional commitment.
- ❖ Arts and science group student teachers are not found to differ significantly in the professional commitment.
- ❖ On testing the significance of difference between U.G and P.G qualified student teachers in terms of psychological variables, it is found that significant difference is observed in the case of professional commitment with U.G qualified student teachers significantly leading the P.G qualified student teachers.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Commitment is an essential aspect for success. Society, parents, management and students are around the teachers. They have more commitment to meet out the demands of the society. Professional commitment needs integrity, team work and accountability. Teachers work in team in a school or college for the prosperity of the students. Commitment is involvement and adherence. Teachers consider the students as their own children. They involve themselves in their career. They update their knowledge and skills without any monotony. Their continuous effort in their profession leads to excellence in their student's life. To maintain in the decisive role of the teacher, they should have commitment towards their profession. But the study shows that there is no commitment among young teachers. So, the education experts design the curriculum to implement the commitment among the young teachers. Dedicated teachers are needed in the current scenario to motivate and guide the children. So, curriculum and innovative programmes should be designed in such a way to intensify commitment among the student teachers.

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