

A study of the Attitude of Primary Teachers toward their Gender and Experience

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Introduction:

Teachers are creating national integration, learning society, and create as well as generate new knowledge. Any nation's progress is intimately connected with teachers' work because Globalization poses fundamental challenges for all areas of education. A teacher, therefore need to stand and be alert for coming challenges. Industrialists, doctors, engineers, scientists and Economists have played significant role but all these people get educated only by teachers. So teachers may be solid pillars of education. The effective attitudes and actions employed by teachers ultimately helps in making a positive difference in the lives of their students through classroom teaching.

Students always follow as well as imitate their teachers' behaviour, way of talking, personality, and their working style etc. A teacher's full commitment to his/her profession helps students to get good contact with the content. For all these type of personality development, to shape the future of pupils a teacher must have such professional attitudes.

Today in our society a teacher has endless challenges but they get only low salaries which affect their working adversely. Today's teachers suffer from lack of confidence, low salary, less protection and finally they don't get the status and respect from society. All that affect adversely teachers' attitude towards work. Many researches have held the view that there is important relationship between the attitude of a teacher and the effectiveness or quality of their teaching. Aiken, 1970 and Larson, 1983 shows that teacher Attitudes influence on students' attitude, Begle, 1979 and Schofield in 1981 have discovered a significant correlation between teacher attitude and students achievement. In view of that

the researcher humbly tried to check how present situation affect teacher's attitudes towards their work.

Objectives

- To study the attitudes of Primary school teachers.
- To Study the effect of Gender on the attitudes of Primary school teachers.
- To study the effect of experience on the attitudes of Primary school teachers.
- To study the effect of interaction of Gender and Experience on the attitudes of Primary school teachers.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses have been formulated for testing the objectives.

- There will be no significant difference between mean scores of male and female teachers.
- There will be no significant difference between mean scores of Above 10 years experienced teachers and below 10 years experienced teachers.
- There will be no significant effect of interaction of Gender and experience on Attitudes of teachers.

Methodology: Survey method was used to study the effectiveness of teachers' attitude towards teaching in primary schools.

Participants

One hundred and fifty eight (158) primary school teachers randomly were selected from Bharuch district, took part in this study. 49(31.01%) were male and 109(68.9%) were female and 120 were above 10 years experience and 38 were below 10 years experience.

Instruments

Teachers Attitude was measured by the Teacher Attitude Inventory by S.P. Ahluwalia. It is consisting of six Sub scales viz. teaching profession, classroom teaching, child centered practices, educational process, pupil and teachers. A five point scale Likert type response consisting of 90 items. Each scale has 15 statements that pertain to a particular aspect of prospective and practicing teachers attitudes. Reliability for this inventory was 0.79 and coefficient corrected was 0.70.

Procedure:

The Teachers Attitude Inventory was administrated to the teachers in each of the randomly selected primary schools involved in the study from Bharuch District. In the schools involved in this study, the participants were assured of the anonymity and confidentiality of their responses.

Data Analysis

For the analysis and interpretation of data and testing of the hypotheses ‘t’ test was used. The independent variables are experience: above 10 years-below 10 years and gender: Male - Female. Source of attitudes towards profession is taken as dependent variable.

Results

The results obtained from the analysis are presented in following tables. Tables showing mean, S.D and ‘t’ scores of attitude towards teaching profession of Primary School Teachers.

Table 1

Significance of difference between Mean scores of Primary Teachers’ attitude with respects to Gender

Gender	N	Mean	S.D	‘t’ value
Male	40	243.2	40.4	3.69
Female	109	266.8	35.9	

Above table reveals that ‘t’ test value of male and female Primary Teacher’s Attitude is significant at 0.01 level.

Table 2

Significance of difference between mean scores of primary teachers’ attitude with respects to Qualification

Qualification	N	Mean	S.D	‘t’ value
Above ten years	120	242.43	36.3	2.92
Below ten years	38	249.07	40.6	

Above table reveals that 't' test value with respect to qualification of male and female primary teacher's Attitude is significant at 0.01 levels.

Table 3

Significance of difference between mean scores of gender wise primary teachers' attitude with respects to various scales of teaching profession

Attitude subscale	Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	't' value
Teaching profession	Male	49	43.26	8.14	0.09
	Female	109	43.39	8.06	
Classroom Teaching	Male	49	42.18	8.14	0.97
	Female	109	40.94	7.09	
Child centered Practice	Male	49	38.77	6.04	0.78
	Female	109	39.62	6.34	
Educational Process	Male	49	41.36	8.39	3.35
	Female	109	43.11	7.23	
Pupils	Male	49	39.04	6.30	3.74
	Female	109	42.91	8.75	
Teachers	Male	49	38.65	9.26	1.32
	Female	109	39.37	7.27	

On the scale of teaching profession male and female teachers of primary school having significant difference in educational process and pupil centered practice and Teacher wise attitudes are not significant in both male and female.

Table 4

Significance of difference between mean scores of experience wise primary teachers' attitude with respects to various scales of teaching profession

Attitude subscale	Experience	N	Mean	S.D.	't' value
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Teaching profession	Above ten years Below ten years	120 38	42.84 45.97	8.04 9.08	2.94
Classroom Teaching	Above ten years Below ten years	120 38	41.10 44.03	7.16 9.37	3.97
Child centered Practice	Above ten years Below ten years	120 38	39.27 39.60	6.32 6.07	0.29
Educational Process	Above ten years Below ten years	120 38	42.65 42.31	7.40 8.40	0.40
Pupils	Above ten years Below ten years	120 38	37.84 40.60	7.10 10.74	3.16
Teachers	Above ten years Below ten years	120 38	38.70 40.55	7.78 9.38	2.25

On the scale of attitude male and female teachers of primary school having significant difference in teaching profession, Classroom teaching, teachers and pupil centered attitude. But Child centered practice and Educational process wise attitudes are not significant in both male and female.

Findings

Gender and Experience have overall effect on Attitude or primary school teachers. Gender has also effect on some attitude scale like educational process and pupil centered attitude.

Significant difference in Teaching profession, Classroom Teaching, Teachers and Pupil Centered attitude is a clear evidence of the effect of experience on primary teachers' attitude.

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