

A Survey of Elementary Teacher Professional Development and Work Stress

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to explore the current professional competence, pro-fessional training need of elementary school teachers' professional development and work stress; to examine the correlation between professional competence, professional training need and work stress; and analyze the influence of teachers' personal back-ground and workspace background variables on difference professional development and work stress. Five hundred sixty two teachers were selected from 89 public elementary schools and one private elementary school in Taiwan by convenience sampling (183 males and 379 females). The instruments were Teachers' Professional Competence, Professional Training Need and Work Stress Questionnaire. Other half structure interview with three teachers. The data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), and t test. The results of this study revealed: (1) The elementary school teachers' professional competence was good. (2) The elementary school teachers' professional training need was slightly. (3) The elementary school teachers' work stress was medium. (4) There was significantly negative correlation between professional competence and training need. There was significantly negative correlation between profes-sional competence and work stress. There was significantly positive correlation between training needs and work stress. (5) There were significantly differences in teacher's professional competence in terms of the teachers ' gender, seniority, age, marriage, educational background, position, and schools' size. (6) There were significantly differences in teachers' professional training need in terms of the teachers' gender, seniority, age, marriage, educational background, area, position, schools' size, schools ' history, and private school. (7) There were significantly differences in teachers' work stress in terms of the teachers ' gender, seniority, age, marriage, educational background, position, area, schools' size, schools' history, and private school.

Keywords : teacher professional development ; professional competence ; professional training need ; work stress ; elementary school teacher

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