



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF THENZAWL TOWN AND THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS TEACHING PROFESSION

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to study the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town, Mizoram towards teaching profession. The sample of the study consists of 40 elementary school teachers. Attitude of Teachers towards Teaching Profession (ATTPS) developed by Dr. Lalbiakdiki & J. Lalsangzuala (2017) was used to collect the data. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the elementary school teachers have positive attitude towards teaching profession. The study also revealed that there is no significant difference between gender, age and duration of work experience of the elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession.

KEYWORDS – *Elementary School Teachers, Attitude, Teaching Profession, Thenzawl Town*

INTRODUCTION

Education is the source of growth and development in every country. Development of a country relies on the level of education being imparted to students as it enables the growth of knowledge in all aspects of life. Teachers are responsible for imparting education to the students in the school and the future of the students rests in the hands of the teachers as they are responsible for the mental, physical, academic, psychological and moral development of the students. So, it is important that teachers should have a positive attitude towards their profession and they must give their ultimate best in their profession in order to have a positive impact to their students. According to Britt (1958) attitude is 'a mental set of response'. Fishbein (1967) defines it as a mental disposition of the human individual to act for or against a definite object. Allport (1935) defines it as a mental and neural state of readiness, organized through experience, exerting a directive or dynamic influence upon the individual's response to all objects and situations with which it is related. The attitude that a teacher possess can largely impact the students in their academic life. A teacher who has a positive attitude towards teaching profession will surely have a positive outlook and a sound mind which is evident in their everyday life.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Adaeze (2011) studied the attitude of students and teachers towards teaching profession in Minna, Niger State. The research involved a total of one hundred and fifty (150) secondary school students and one hundred (100) student-teachers randomly drawn from five (5) secondary schools. The findings show that senior secondary school students and teachers sampled exhibited a positive attitude towards teaching profession. Lalsangzuala (2013) explored the attitude of elementary student teachers towards teaching profession in

Mizoram. It was found that elementary student-teachers have high positive attitude towards teaching profession. Female student teachers have higher attitude than male student-teachers. The result also showed that no significant difference was found in the attitude of student teachers in relation to gender and professional status. However, there was a significant difference in the attitude of elementary student-teachers towards teaching profession in relation to demographic location. Kalaivani and Amburose (2019) in their study found that there is no significant difference in the teacher's attitude towards teaching profession with respect to their age and that there is no significant difference in the teacher's attitude towards teaching program based on their teaching experience and with respect to their marital status. But gender influences on teachers' attitude towards teaching profession. Male teachers have better attitude towards teaching profession than female teachers.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession?
2. What is the attitude of male and female elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession?
3. What is the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession regarding their duration of teaching experience?
4. What is the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession regarding their age?



RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession.
2. To compare the attitude of male and female elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession.
3. To compare the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town of above 20 years teaching experience and below 20 years teaching experience towards teaching profession.
4. To compare the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town of above 40 years old and below 40 years old towards teaching profession.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession.
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession of above 20 years teaching experience and below 20 years teaching experience.
3. There is no significant difference in the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession of above 40 years old and below 40 years old.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For this study, Descriptive Survey Method was used and the sample of the study consists of 40 elementary school teachers of Thenzawl. The researcher used 'Attitude of Teachers towards Teaching Profession' (ATTPS) developed by Dr. Lalbiakdiki & J. Lalsangzuala (2017). The technique employed

to develop the attitude scale was Likert Scale (1932). This scale have four (4) components and thirty nine (39) items/statements with twenty four (24) negative statements and fifteen (15) positive statements. The researcher went to the schools and with the permission of the headmasters and the researcher personally contacted all the respondents to collect the data. Clear instructions were prepared for the respondents. The researcher also told the respondents that all their responses will be kept strictly confidential and data furnished by the individual teacher will be used only for research purpose without disclosing individual identity. Consumable booklet of attitude scale (Test Booklet) was then distributed to the respondents. The respondents were asked to decide about their agreement with the statements and mark the relevant response category honestly on the response sheet and with the request to complete all the statements. After the teachers completed answering all the statements, the researcher then collected the response sheets. The researcher used appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical techniques such as percentage, standard deviation and t-test for analyzing the present study. t-test was used for calculating the significant difference between male and female, duration of work experience and age of the teachers.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The analysis and interpretation is done according to the objectives as follows :

Objective 1 : To find out the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession

Using the attitude scale developed by Dr. Lalbiakdiki & J. Lalsangzuala, the researcher studied the attitude of the elementary school teachers towards teaching profession. The following table shows the scores of the respondents in the attitude scale of the study.

Table 1
Attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession

Level of Attitude	No. of Teachers	Percentage
Negative Attitude	2	5%
Neutral Attitude	5	12.50%
Positive Attitude	33	82.50%

The above table shows that majority of the elementary school teachers have a positive attitude towards teaching profession i.e., 33 of the teachers (82.50%), five (5) teachers (12.50%) have a neutral attitude towards teaching profession and the rest of the remaining teachers i.e., two (2) elementary teachers (5%) have a negative attitude towards teaching profession.

It can be concluded from the above table that among the respondents, majority of the teachers have a positive attitude towards their profession. This may be due to the positive impact of teaching and the daily activities that are done in the school to impart education in the students by the teachers as

dedicated and determined teachers have a positive perspective on their work which in turn enables them to work and teach students with a positive attitude.

Objective 2 : To compare the attitude of male and female elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession

To compare the attitude of male and female elementary teachers towards teaching profession, the mean and standard deviation of the two groups were calculated using t-test. The result is shown in the table.



Table 2

Comparison of male and female elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Male	15	156.67	6.67	0.34	Not Significant
Female	25	155.72	10.69		

The data shown in the above table reveals that the calculated value of 't' is smaller than the critical value of 't' and the null hypothesis i.e., 'There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession' is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession. This proves that gender does not play a significant role in determining who has a more positive attitude over one another and that there is no difference between the attitude of male and female teachers in their attitude towards their profession.

Objective 3 : To compare the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town of above 20 years teaching experience and below 20 years teaching experience towards teaching profession

In order to compare the attitude of elementary teachers who have a teaching experience of above 20 years and below 20 years, the mean and standard deviation of both the groups were calculated using t-test. The calculated result is shown as under :

Table 3

Comparison of the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town of above 20 years teaching experience and below 20 years teaching experience towards teaching profession

Duration of Teaching Experience	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Above 20 years	28	158.29	7.08	1.98	Not Significant
Below 20 years	12	150.92	12		

The above table shows that the calculated value of 't' is smaller than the critical value of 't' and the null hypothesis i.e., 'There is no significant difference between the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession of above 20 years teaching experience and below 20 years teaching experience' is accepted. Hence, there is no no significant difference between the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession of above 20 years teaching experience and below 20 years teaching experience. This finding shows that the duration of teaching experience of the elementary teachers do not have a significant role in determining their attitude

towards teaching profession and this may be due to the interest in teaching profession and the dedication towards their profession.

Objective 4 : To compare the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town of above 40 years old and below 40 years old towards teaching profession

In order to compare the attitude of elementary teachers who are aged above 40 years and below 40 years, the mean and standard deviation of both the groups were calculated using t-test. The calculated result is shown as under :



Table 4
Comparison of the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town of above 40 years old and below 40 years old towards teaching profession

Age	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Above 40 years	30	157.27	8.82	1.3	Not Significant
Below 40 years	10	152.5	10.37		

The above table shows that the calculated value of 't' is smaller than the critical value of 't' and the null hypothesis i.e., 'There is no significant difference in the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession of above 40 years old and below 40 years old' is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference in the attitude of elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town towards teaching profession of above 40 years old and below 40 years old. This result shows that the number of age of a teacher does not play a significant role in determining the attitude of an elementary teacher in his/her attitude towards teaching profession. This may be because age of a teacher does not show his lack of dedication and admiration of his profession and that if a person age his/her attitude towards his profession is not likely to change.

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CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that the majority of the elementary school teachers of Thenzawl town has a positive attitude towards teaching profession and that no significant difference were found in teachers who are aged above 40 years and below 40 years, the teachers who have a teaching experience of above 20 years and below 20 years also does not show any significant difference in their attitude towards teaching profession. Healthy and positive attitude of a teacher is needed for a positive teaching and learning environment. If teachers lose interest and admiration in their profession and does not acknowledge and respect the teaching profession then the level of their job satisfaction will slowly fades and this will have a negative impact on the students and the learning atmosphere. The more competent and dedicated the teacher is to his profession the more positive impact he will have on others.

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