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## Attitude of Prospective Teachers towards Teaching Profession

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### Abstract

*Teaching as a profession requires competence, dedication and a positive attitude. The complex requirement of this profession can only be met by continuous development of knowledge, skills and attitudes of future teachers through efficient teacher education programme. The present study titled, "Attitude of Prospective Teachers Towards Teaching Profession" is conducted on 300 prospective teachers of Mizoram. Teacher Attitude Scale (TAS-GL) developed by T.C.Goyal is used for collection and interpretation of data. The study found that majority of the prospective teachers of Mizoram have favourable attitude towards the teaching profession. Gender and the type of teacher education programme (secondary/elementary) are also found to be defining factors of attitude towards teaching profession.*

**Keywords:** *Attitude, Teaching profession, Prospective teachers*

### Theoretical Background

The teaching profession is considered to be one of the noblest in the vast array of professions. It involves the process of recreating man and facilitating the transformation of man into valuable human resource by imparting knowledge and developing skills.

According to Allport (1954), "Attitude is 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". It is thus a mental process that determines both the actual and potential response of an individual towards his environment. The attitude of a person towards their profession is considered to be an influential factor for better performance in the profession. Various studies have shown a positive correlation between teacher's attitude towards their profession and their effectiveness (Stronge,2007), positive correlation between attitude towards teaching profession and academic achievement of prospective teachers (Patil,2012), positive correlation between attitude and teaching efficiency

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(Gupta,1977). The influence of the teacher's attitude on his or her performance in the profession is a testament for teacher education programmes to focus on developing a positive attitude towards teaching profession.

### **Rationale of the study**

Attitude towards teaching profession, as highlighted in many studies is a determining factor for success in the profession. The quality of teaching in our educational system thus highly depends on securing competent teachers with a positive attitude towards the profession. The prospective teachers, who are the future of the profession must be equipped with favorable attitude towards the profession to uphold and attain the goals of teaching. Thus, a study on the attitude of prospective teachers become crucial to shed light on the current status of the prospective teachers of Mizoram and also to provide baseline information for the development of an enhanced teacher education programme in the state.

### **Objectives**

1. To study the attitude of prospective teachers of Mizoram towards teaching profession.
2. To compare the attitude of male and female prospective teachers of Mizoram towards teaching profession
3. To compare the attitude of prospective secondary and elementary teachers of Mizoram towards teaching profession

### **Methodology**

The present study is a descriptive survey research which attempts to find out the status of prospective teachers of Mizoram on their attitude towards teaching profession.

### **Sample**

For the present study, simple random sampling technique was used to draw the sample. Keeping in view the proportion of prospective teachers, a sample of 300 prospective teachers, 180 from secondary level i.e, Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) and 120 from elementary level i.e, Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) were taken from the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE);Department of Education, Mizoram University; District Institute of Education and Training(DIET), Aizawl and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).

### **Tool Used**

For the present study, Teacher Attitude Scale (TAS-GL) developed by T.C.Goyal is used.

### **Procedure**

The investigator personally visited the institutions selected for the present study and took permission from the concerned authorities to collect data. After receiving approval from

the concerned authorities, the investigator built rapport with the participants in their respective classrooms and distributed questionnaires to the prospective teachers and gave thorough instructions beforehand. Each subject was to respond by reacting to the statement and putting a tick mark against those items only with which he/she agreed. The investigator made sure that all questions were answered before collecting the questionnaire.

While administering all the tests, the respondents were assured that their answers and scores would be treated with strict confidence. After getting the response sheets, the next step was to score them. Scoring of the answers sheets was done strictly according to the instructions given in the manual.

### Data analysis

The analysis of data was carried out using appropriate statistical techniques, viz, percentage, mean, standard deviation and t-test.

1. Percentage was used to find out the percentage of level of attitude of prospective teachers towards teaching profession.
2. Mean was used to determine the average of the attitude possessed by the prospective teachers.
3. Standard Deviation was used to determine the deviation in the attitude of the prospective teachers.
4. The t-test is used to test the significance of mean difference among the different samples.

### Analysis and interpretation

#### 1. Overall Attitude of Prospective Teachers of Mizoram towards Teaching Profession

The following table 1 shows the overall attitude of prospective teachers of Mizoram towards teaching profession:

*Table 1: Overall Attitude Level of Prospective Teachers of Mizoram towards Teaching Profession.*

Sl no	Score Range	Category	No. of Students	Percentage
1	0-2.9	Most Favorable	22	7.33
2	3-4.9	Favorable	244	81.33
3	5-5.9	Neutral	29	9.67
4	6-6.9	Unfavorable	5	1.67
5	7-8.9	Most unfavorable	0	0

Table 1 indicates the overall level of attitude possessed by prospective teachers towards teaching profession. It shows that out of 300 respondents, 22 (7.33%) have the most favourable

attitude, 244 (81.33%) prospective teachers have favourable attitudes, 29 (9.67%) of them are neutral in their attitude and 5 (1.67%) have unfavourable attitude towards teaching profession. This reveals that majority of the prospective teachers have favourable attitudes towards teaching profession.

## 2. Comparison of The Attitude of Male and Female Prospective Teachers Towards Teaching Profession.

The following Table 2 shows the comparison of the attitude of male and female prospective teachers towards teaching profession:

*Table 2: Comparison of The Attitude of Male and Female Prospective Teachers Towards Teaching Profession.*

Gender	No. of students	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-ratio	Significance Level
Male	109	4.35	0.77	5.63	Significant at 0.01 level
Female	191	3.84	0.72		

A quick glance at Table 2 highlights the comparison made between male and female prospective teachers with respect to their attitude towards teaching profession. The table indicates that the calculated value of 't' turns out to be 5.63, which is more than the critical value of 't', therefore it can be concluded that male and female prospective teachers differ significantly in their attitude towards teaching profession.

## 3. Comparison of the Attitude of Prospective Elementary and Secondary Teachers towards Teaching Profession.

The following Table 3 shows the comparison of prospective elementary and secondary teachers with respect to their attitude towards teaching profession.

*Table 3: Comparison of the Attitude of Prospective Elementary and Secondary Teachers towards Teaching Profession.*

Programme	No. of students	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-ratio	Significance Level
Elementary	120	4.14	1.75	2.16	Significant at 0.05 level
Secondary	180	3.95	1.79		

A cursory glance at Table 3 indicates the comparison made on the attitude of prospective elementary and secondary teachers towards teaching profession. The obtained value of 't' given in the table is 2.16, which is greater than the critical value of 't' at 0.05 level of confidence. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is significant difference between prospective elementary and secondary teachers in their attitude towards teaching profession.

## Findings and discussion

The major findings derived from the present study are as follows:

### ***Findings Relating to Objective No.1***

#### *Overall Attitude of Prospective Teachers towards Teaching Profession.*

The present study in relation to the overall attitude of prospective teachers towards teaching profession found that majority (81.33%) of the prospective teachers have favourable attitudes towards teaching profession.

**Discussion:** The present study, conducted to find out the attitude of prospective teachers of Mizoram towards teaching profession found that majority of the prospective teachers possess a favorable attitude towards teaching profession. This finding is backed up by the findings of related studies conducted prior to the present study. Studies conducted by Butch (1959), Demir (2016) and Patil (2012) found that prospective teachers have favorable and positive attitude towards teaching profession.

The positive attitude of the prospective teachers may be determined by personal traits, social environment as well as the perception of the teaching profession, status of teachers, salary, nature of work etc. at the individual and social level. The quality and nature of teacher education and the professional development experiences, that they have been exposed to may also be an influential factor in the formation of such attitude. In the light of this finding, the strategic role of the teacher education institutions and the quality that is embedded in the programmes must be emphasized as prospective teachers will be enabled to develop a more positive attitude that would be a strong determinant for efficiency in their profession. The implication for this finding is that prospective teachers will be filled with fresh minds having the right attitude to foster the cause of teaching efficiently in Mizoram.

### ***Findings Relating to Objective No.2***

#### *Comparison of the Attitude of Male and Female Prospective Teachers towards Teaching Profession*

The gender-based comparison reveals a significant difference between the male and female prospective teachers in their attitude towards teaching profession.

**Discussion:** In the light of the findings of the present study, it can be said that gender is a determining factor in the attitude of prospective teachers of Mizoram towards teaching profession. The female prospective teachers are found to have a more favorable attitude towards their teaching profession than their male counterparts. (The mean of the female prospective teachers is less than the male because the scoring in the attitude scale was done in the reverse i.e. the lesser the score, the more favourable the attitude of the teachers) This finding is in consonance with previous studies conducted by Ramakrishnaiah (1980), Shukla (1997), and Pancholi and Bhardwad (2015) who found that female prospective teachers have favourable attitude than the male prospective teachers.

### ***Findings Relating to Objective No.3***

#### *Comparison of the Attitude of Prospective Elementary and Secondary Teachers towards Teaching Profession*

The present study found a significant difference between prospective Elementary and Secondary teachers in their attitude towards teaching profession.

**Discussion:** The significant difference found between prospective Elementary and Secondary teachers in their attitude towards teaching profession resulted in favour of the prospective Secondary teachers. (The mean of the secondary prospective teachers is less than the male because the scoring in the attitude scale was done in the reverse i.e. the lesser the score, the more favourable the attitude of the teachers) The reason why prospective secondary teachers have a more positive attitude towards their profession could be attributed to the nature of professional education as well as the experiences provided in the secondary teacher education programs. The curriculum of the programs as well as the environment the prospective secondary teachers are exposed to, can also be a contributing factor. The investigator however, found no literature on previous studies that could be linked to this particular finding.

### **Conclusion**

The attitudes of teachers towards their profession and the way they perceive it affects their performance. The prospective teachers, who are the future of the profession, must be equipped not only with knowledge and skills, but also with favorable attitude towards their profession. The present study conducted among the prospective teachers enrolled in various teacher education programs within the state shows that the prospective teachers of Mizoram have a favorable attitude towards teaching profession. It is also found that gender and the type of program that prospective teachers are enrolled in, are defining factors of the attitude towards teaching profession.

The study has provided a clear view of the attitude of prospective teachers of Mizoram towards teaching profession, which is positive in overall. This positive attitude reflects the status of the future teachers and that of the teacher education programs in the state. In light of the findings of the present study, the prospective teachers are likely to be filled with fresh minds, having the right attitude to foster effective, efficient and quality teaching in Mizoram.

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