

Public Abstract

First Name:Adem

Middle Name:

Last Name:Bayar

Adviser's First Name:Peggy

Adviser's Last Name:Placier

Co-Adviser's First Name:

Co-Adviser's Last Name:

Graduation Term:SP 2013

Department:Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis

Degree:PhD

Title:FACTORS AFFECTING TEACHERS PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY

A positive relationship exists between teacher quality and student achievement. However, some researchers have shown that many teachers are not adequately prepared to teach when they graduate from college (Hirsh, 2001; Palardy & Rumberger; 2008). As a result, on-going professional development (PD) programs play a key role in preparing teachers to do their jobs (Birman, Desimone, Porter, & Garet, 2000).

According to the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), the participation rate of Turkish teachers in PD activities is the lowest among the 23 participating countries; prompting the researcher to identify the need for further research into the factors influencing teacher participation in PD.

In order to examine the relationship between internal factors, external factors and teachers' participation in PD programs in Turkey, the researcher conducted a group-administered survey with 600 elementary school teachers in Osmaniye, Turkey. The total number of returned, usable surveys was 525 out of 600.

The researcher found that although age, teachers' attitudes towards PD activities, time, funding, and colleague influence affect teachers' participation in PD activities; gender, teaching experience, grade level of teaching, education level, teachers' self-efficacy, principal, and school culture do not affect their participation in these activities in Turkey.

Through this study, the researcher hoped to contribute to the literature on PD; to encourage other researchers to conduct further research related to the PD of teachers in Turkey; and to inform Turkish policy makers regarding strategies for increasing teacher participation rates in PD programs (and consequently impacting the achievement of Turkish students).