

Future Teachers' Knowledge and Awareness of their Role in Student Misbehaviour

Abstract

Many surveys have confirmed that teachers have a major influence on student behaviour. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether future teachers have knowledge and awareness of their own potential contribution to student (mis) behaviour. If they have such knowledge and become aware of such an influence, they can help to decrease it. For the analysis, data were collected from 170 students from the Faculty of Education. Although most students in our study ascribe the major responsibility for student misbehaviour to parents, our study also shows that future teachers do realise that responsibility for student misbehaviour cannot be ascribed to one factor alone but to many factors, including circumstances connected with school. School can cause misbehaviour mainly by inconsistency, boring lessons and indulgent discipline. Future teachers would like to acquire more knowledge of and experience in facing student misbehaviour, especially in the field of working with difficult students and their parents, as well as conflict resolution.

Keywords: *causes of misbehaviour; primary school; student misbehaviour; teacher training; teaching profession*

Changes in global society resulting from modern western civilisation and the western lifestyle are strongly reflected in family life. "American families have undergone dramatic changes in the last thirty years.... Divorce, remarriages, working parents, single-parent families (especially many headed by women), grandparents, foster parents, gay parents, and various configurations of the blended family have changed the traditional image of a nuclear family" (Nakamura, 2000, p. 40). Besides that, many children live in poverty..., and the number of reports about child abuse