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The Influence of Occupational Inheritance on Student Teachers' Career Choice Motives

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Abstract

Motivational orientations play an important role in the professional development of student teachers and their later professional success as teachers. Although it is empirically well documented that the career inheritance of teachers is just below the traditionally high self-recruitment rate of doctors, there are only a few studies that focus on the influence of intrafamilial career reproduction on the motivational orientations of students. The present study focused on the importance of occupational inheritance. A quantitative survey of first-year students examined whether the career choice motives and psychological resources of student teachers whose parents are or were teachers differ from those whose parents were not educators. The results indicate that the two groups of students indeed differ in terms of both study choice motives and psychological resources. Contrary to the research hypothesis, the results also indicate that idealistic study choice motives are higher among students whose parents were educators. In summary, it can be said that occupational inheritance has not only adaptive but also maladaptive effects.

Keywords: study choice, motivation, occupational inheritance, student teachers, stress