ANALYZING FACTORS INFLUENCING TEACHING AS A CAREER CHOICE USING STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING

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ABSTRACT

Because today’s society is in need of better teachers, it is extremely important that - policy makers are aware of the factors influencing teaching as a career choice. This paper presents and discusses the results obtained using the advanced structural equation modeling methodology for survey data obtained at a Midwestern university. In this study, 458 Math/Science undergraduate students responded to an online survey about factors that they value highly in choosing a career and whether they expected that teaching would offer those factors. Also asked were other factors that might influence them in choosing a teaching career and how likely they would choose a teaching career. We have used the expectancy-value framework, the respondent’s survey data and structural equation modeling statistical methodology to investigate the relationship between the underlying latent explanatory factors related to intrinsic, extrinsic and altruistic motivation and social influence with the outcome factor responsible for choosing teaching as a career. Results from the analysis of our model indicate that for youths who are yet to decide about a career, intrinsic reason plays a great role in choosing a career in teaching.