ASSESSING ALIGNMENT OF PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE AND CONFIDENCE IN A SIMULATED TEACHING ENVIRONMENT

Research Question

After pre-service candidates use simSchool do their ratings of experience increase and become more in balance with confidence?

What is simSchool?

flight simulator for teachers

mirror real students

practice teaching

explore instructional strategies

Theoretical Framework

• Bandura’s Theory of Self Efficacy is one’s belief that they can succeed in a particular situation.
• Argyris & Schon Espoused Theory is the difference in what one thinks he can do and what he can actually do.

Pedagogical Balance

Confidence – Experience = Pedagogical Balance (PB)

• PB is the difference between a person’s average confidence rating and average experience rating
• Highest confidence possible is 5.0
• Lowest confidence possible is 1.0
• The goal of pedagogical balance is to be equal to 0 so that confidence of pre-service teachers is aligned with experience.

Data Analysis

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<th>Variable</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. dev.</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
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Table 1. Descriptives of pre and post test findings in experience and confidence of the treatment and comparison groups.

The lowest standard deviation was in the treatment group in post-confidence which could indicate that as a group they converged on their estimates.

The treatment group gained more experience causing the Pedagogical Balance to become more in balance.

Findings

The outcome of this study can provide one approach to validating an increase in pre-service teacher’s experience levels in order to better prepare them for the many demands of the classroom. As experience aligns with confidence Pedagogical Balance improves.

Future research: Does having more simSchool use mean having more Pedagogical Balance?

Instrumentation & Participation

Survey of Teaching Skills

Knowledge of student:
• Reading and using student records to make instructional decisions
• Pre-planning lesson plans and making assignments
• Assessing learning and making instructional adjustments

2 Self-Reported Measures

Teaching Experience: Alpha = .94

Teaching Confidence: Alpha = .93

(very good reliability according to DeVellis, 1991)

25 UNT treatment

26 HZNU treatment

58 pre-service teachers

26 UNT comparison

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