

An Analysis of the Minority of Males Working as Kindergarten Teachers

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Abstract: The kindergarten period is the critical period for the formation of character and habits. Accordingly, Kindergarten education is fairly crucial for people. Nowadays, few males choose to become kindergarten teachers in the world. For instance, in South Australian kindergartens, female kindergarten teachers account for the most proportion. Until June 2005, only three male kindergarten teachers in comparison with two hundred and nineteen female kindergarten teachers worked on preschool education [1]. There is a significant gender gap among the kindergarten teachers. I have looked up some relevant reviews and statistics on the proportion of male early childhood workers in different countries and the salary of early childhood educators in Australia in 2015.

Keywords: male kindergarten teacher, low salary, low status, gender gap

1. Introduction

In Norway, the proportion of male early childhood workers is about 5%. In the UK, male early childhood workers account for about 2%. In Sweden, male early childhood workers account for about 3%. In Denmark, male early childhood workers account for about 8%. In Finland, male early childhood workers account for about 4%. In North America, the proportion of male early childhood workers is about 3% [2]. The range of childhood workers is wider than the range of kindergarten teachers. In Australia's early childhood service, the workforce is 95% women [3]. Based on the America bureau of labor statistics in 2007, the proportion of male elementary and middle school teachers was 18.3 percent. Whereas, male early childhood education and care just accounted for less than 3 percent. In 2016, the proportion of male elementary and middle school teachers was 21.5 percent. Whereas, male preschool and kindergarten teachers just accounted for just 2.5 percent [4]. So in most countries, less than ten percent of kindergarten teachers are male. There are pretty few male kindergarten teachers. It is not beneficial to growth.

2. Reasons

2.1. Low Income

In Australia in 2015, early childhood educators who had qualified certificates received \$753 per week before tax. Seven hundred and fifty-three dollars is significantly less than the average weekly salary

for other occupations which is one thousand and one hundred and thirty-seven dollars [3]. Although the salary of the kindergarten teachers is increased in recent years, the salary of the kindergarten teachers is less than the salary of the elementary teachers and secondary teachers. In addition to poor pay and benefits, kindergarten teachers have few opportunities for promotion, because in China nowadays, the primary teacher promotion standard is the same as that of kindergarten school teachers, such as in teaching and scientific research field. So it is challenging for kindergarten teachers to have promotion chances. Partly because in either private or public kindergartens, some kindergarten teachers have a required training of low level, compared with the higher level required training of primary school teachers [5]. For example, in 2005 of the 13, 972 graduates who got kindergarten teacher qualification, most of them had 2–3 years of college education. Only 2, 044 teachers obtained full-time four-year undergraduate diplomas and another 2, 700 once studied in the National Open University, whose diplomas have low gold content [5]. Perhaps because becoming a kindergarten teacher does not need to graduate from a university ranking the top, kindergarten teachers have a low salary. In traditional opinion, men need to make sufficient money to support their own families. Women are mainly responsible for raising children. In some families, wives are off duty, becoming full-time wives. Accordingly, men have much more pressure of making money than women. Besides, women need to give birth to at least one child. So women probably have sequelae of giving birth to a child such as out of shape, lower urinary tract symptoms, and so on, and accompanying a lifetime [6]. Accordingly, female bodies are perhaps be harmed. So men should bear more earning responsibility than women.

2.2. Misunderstanding

In traditional opinion, some people reckon that the kindergarten teachers are not literate, and think of them as child-care workers. But it is not wholly accurate, which results in the lack of respect given to the kindergarten teachers. Firstly, generally, the educational level of kindergarten teachers is lower than that of primary school teachers, junior school teachers, and high school teachers. the university teachers [4]. Secondly, some people confuse kindergarten teachers and nursery school teachers. Teachers who want to teach in kindergarten are required to graduate from colleges or universities with an associate's or bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related fields, such as special education, dance, music, piano, physical education, and so on [5]. Working in kindergartens need much academic preparation, and teaching experience, uses more appropriate practical teaching strategies, and requires a kindergarten teaching license [5]. Accordingly, becoming a kindergarten teacher need some effort. In contrast, primary school, junior school, high school, and college teachers are required to obtain full-time four-year college or university education and pass a highly competitive teacher employment test held by a city or a province's local educational bureau. Therefore, people tend to give more respect to primary school, junior school, high school, and college teachers.

2.3. Character

Universally, men lack patience, meticulous, and rigorous in getting along with kids than women. Most men have more violent tendencies than women [7,8]. Kids aged 0~6 years old is naughty and they do not know what is correct or wrong. In addition, they have much less critical abilities than adults. So they easily make mistakes. Probably they do not wholly obey the rule and follow their teachers in kindergarten. Under this circumstance, the teachers need to accompany and teach kids patiently. Besides, the teachers probably explain the knowledge more than once. Possibly, there are some conflicts among kids. Then, their parents maybe come to the kindergarten and ask for specific information for the teachers. The teachers need to resolve conflicts patiently. Perhaps kids run

anywhere and anytime. So kids hurt easily. For example, a child ran anywhere in a kindergarten. Then he fell down and his knee hurt. His teacher accompanied him to get to a hospital like his mother. And the teacher accompanied the child until he was cured. In addition to accompanying the child, the teacher also needs to explain the particular cause, process, and result to the parents of the child. If the kindergarten teachers are not patient, they will argue with the parents and have contradictions with the parents. It can cause a bad influence on kindergartens. All in all, kindergarten teachers need to get along well with the kids and their parents patiently and carefully.

3. Drawback of Minority of Male Working as Kindergarten Teachers

Except for parents, it is the teachers that spend the most time accompanying their students. Accordingly, teachers are one of the most influential roles for kids. Kids imitate the word and behavior of their teachers. Men and women both have their own advantages although there are gender differences between men and women. Generally, men have more strength than women. Men are less judgmental than women [8]. As for boys, more female kindergarten teachers probably contribute to the weakness of boys. What is worse, boys lack masculinity. Female teachers are more possible to use calm activities and pay attention to social development, and male teachers like to carry out physical play in the teaching process. In addition, male teachers are more passionate, more able to control activities effectively, more playful when developing daily play, and more intelligent in activating children [8]. Male kindergarten teachers are able to sound more softly than females, whereas female kindergarten teachers can sound louder at distinct low and high relative frequency ranges [9]. In kindergarten teachers, there are many types of lessons, such as dance, singing, English, and so on. Male kindergarten teachers can teach kids to sing in a more soft voice than females [9]. Kids are appealed to by soft voices easily. So kids have more interest in learning to sing. In short, if male kindergarten teachers are few, kids maybe are not healthy in terms of physical and psychological aspects. If there is not much difference in kindergarten teachers' gender ratio, kids can study more joyfully and efficiently.

4. Ways of Increasing the Proportion and Retention Ratio of Male Kindergarten Teachers

The government should raise the threshold for becoming kindergarten teachers. From my perspective, kindergarten teachers must finish four years education of at university and they must be full-time graduates and get teaching certificates. To some extent, it can change some people's traditional opinion that kindergarten teachers are not literate. And kindergarten teachers can get respect from people. There is a salary gap between public kindergarten teachers and private kindergarten teachers. Consequently, the government should particularly safeguard the benefit of private kindergarten teachers [5,10]. And with the support of the government, the public and private kindergartens should both increase the kindergarten teachers' salaries and provide thorough social insurance, like maternal insurance, unemployment insurance, housing fund, medical insurance, injury insurance, and endowment pension. It can improve the social status of kindergarten teachers.

5. Promising

Male and female kindergarten teachers respectively take the most advantage of their strength. Male kindergarten teachers can carry out some physical activities, such as running, swimming, playing badminton, and so on. It can show their value. Because female kindergarten teachers are more interested in social development, they can carry out classes about social development [11]. In some things in society, female kindergarten teachers can teach kids noble morality. Becoming the first teacher to kids, you feel proud of yourself. With the guidance of kindergarten teachers, kids develop good study and behavior habits. Compared to adults, kids are all kind and pure. Kids are blank papers,

waiting for the teachers to color in the papers. Kids can not intrigue each other like adults. When you get along well with kids, you can feel relaxed. When you who are exhausted see the smiling faces of kids, you can feel warm. Although it is tough to get promoted to a kindergarten teacher. Whereas, when you become a kindergarten teacher for many years and you are excellent enough, you probably are promoted to kindergarten leader.

6. Conclusion

The reasons why male kindergarten teachers are extremely few are low salaries, traditional ideas, and the gender differences between males and females. Firstly, people should change traditional ideas about kindergarten teachers and respect them. The kindergarten teachers are wholly different from the nursery school teachers [5]. The kindergarten teachers need to have a command of dance, singing, piano, and so on. Even, some bilingual kindergarten teachers are proficient in English. They generally pass college English bands 4 and 6. Finally, the government should strongly support the development of kindergarten teachers and preschool education majors and take action to support kindergarten teachers. So kindergarten teachers are promising.

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