

## ATTITUDE OF PROFESSIONALS FROM DIFFERENT FIELDS OF LIFE TOWARDS THE TEACHING PROFESSION

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### Abstract:

*The present study was designed to determine the attitude of professionals from different fields of life towards the teaching profession. Study was quantitative in nature and data was collected through a self administered questionnaire. The population of study was comprised of the doctors, lawyers, banker and policemen of upper, central and lower Punjab province Pakistan. Sample was selected through multistage random sampling. Results of the study revealed that male and female professionals (doctors, bankers, lawyers and policemen) did not have different attitudes toward teaching profession with respect to orientation toward teaching, social status and quality of work. Attitudes of male and female professionals were different about Personal Growth and Development in teaching profession. Male and female had different attitudes regarding financial benefits of teaching profession. There was no difference in attitudes toward teaching profession between the professionals living in urban and rural areas. Professionals from different fields had different attitudes toward teaching profession.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Teachers play a significant part in society. Teaching is a very important profession in bringing a change in the knowledge and teachings of society. Even though teachers are founded in the bottom tier of today's order of command, it is without a doubt that they are exceedingly knowledgeable individuals. Developing a professional approach and attitude for a particular profession is hands down one of the most important assets that determine a person's success in that particular profession (Camadan & Duysak, 2010). Teaching has never been a high pay job, which causes many issues for the teachers. Joyce and Showers (2008) even went as far as to prove that half of the teaching staff would quit within the next six years due to low income and other such frustrations. Okumbe, (2007) pointed out another important factor that contributed to the problem. Researcher suggested that most members of the society adopted the teaching profession because they were unable to pursue any other profession. It claimed based on records that most people do not want to enter this profession; they do not even think to pursue teaching as a profession as this profession has lost its glory and honor in society.

Pay is an important factor, which makes a profession good or bad. It is a fact whether acknowledging or not, considering a job hard or easy depends on two factors. One is salaries, and another is its capabilities. Throughout history, teaching has never been considered a highly paid profession. Low wages compared to efforts used to carry the task are also the main contributor to making the job much harder (Martin, & Geoff, 2005). Besides, this is one of those many criteria where teachers draw the short end of the stick.

Different types of research and great volumes of reviews and research exist which is solely based on the connections and links between the attitude and the teaching profession (Akbaba, 2013; Bhargava & Pathy, 2014) and many texts and researches can be found about how the teaching practices and development gets affected by their attitude towards the teaching profession (Harchy, Jamaluddin, & Abedalaziz, 2013). But the point is considered how the employees of other professions think about this profession whether they are willing to join this profession by themselves and would allow their offspring's to join this problem. The present study was designed to determine the attitude of professionals from different

fields of life towards the teaching profession

## 2. Objective of the Study

The objective of this study was to determine the attitude of professionals from different fields of life towards the teaching profession.

## 3. Significance of the Study

The findings would serve as insight and guidance for the community to know about other professionals' attitudes toward the teaching profession. This also helps us understand the orientation toward teaching, social status, quality of work, personal growth and development, and financial benefits by the other professionals toward the teaching profession. Usually, other professionals underestimate the teaching due to low social status and limited financial benefits. Thus, other professionals need to adopt a positive attitude toward the teaching profession.

## 4. Research Design

Quantitative research was conducted because a large number of individuals are considered as sample of study. To deal with numerical figures in the research the quantitative is the scientific method to explore the latest aspects of the phenomena of human beings. Replication is possible when researcher conducts quantitative research. The reason to pose this study is that researcher is interested to analyze the cross professional attitude toward teaching according to their occupations so, the quantitative research is conducted. The results from this type of research are more generalized to the whole population.

## 5. Population

The population of study was comprised of the doctors, lawyers, banker and policemen of upper, central and lower Punjab province Pakistan. All the individuals from these professions share similar values and training programs. Doctors, lawyers, bankers and policemen receive training in their own profession so their characteristics as population toward teaching profession was the keen interest for the researcher to examine their opinion. This study focused on attitudes toward teaching profession. Employees of other professions perceive in different ways toward teaching. Attitude and perception of professionals from different fields toward teaching was addressed in this study.

## 6. Sample

A multistage random sampling technique was used in the present study to approach the research target population. First of all, the researcher conveniently selected Punjab province as the area of study. Then central Punjab was randomly selected to carry out the study as the sampling frame. After that, 3 divisions of central Punjab (Lahore, Sahiwal and Faisalabad) were again randomly selected. Then a stratified sampling technique was used to select different strata from each category of professionals (doctors, lawyers, bankers and policemen) for the purpose of data collection.

As a sample of study 259 professionals including doctors, bankers, lawyers and policemen were selected by using strata convenient sampling technique.

## 7. Research Instruments

A scale was developed by the researcher with the collaboration of supervisor to measure the attitude toward teaching profession. Attitude toward teaching profession by other professionals was divided into factors/domains. These domains were formed on the basis of attribution of teaching profession. There are five factors or domains that were composed; orientation toward teaching, social status, quality of work, personal growth and development and financial benefits. Total numbers of items are 37 that are accumulated from the factors.

**Table:** Factors and relating items in questionnaire

Sr #	Factors	Items
1	Orientation towards teaching	7
2	Social Status	9

3	Quality of Work	8
4	Personal Growth and Development	7
5	Financial Benefits	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>

It was designed on 5-point Likert scale; strongly disagree, disagree, undecided, agree and strongly agree. Demographic information was accompanied with this questionnaire (gender, occupation and residence/ locality).

### 8. Data Analysis

When the process of data collection was accomplished then it was entered into Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS). Coding was completed according to demographic variables and factors of questionnaire. Data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics. Various statistical techniques; t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were used to get the results.

#### Results:

**Table: Gender of Professionals**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Male</b>	158	61.0	61.0	61.0
<b>Female</b>	101	39.0	39.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	259	100.0	100.0	

The above table shows gender of professionals, There are 61.0 % male participation and 39.0% female participation in this study.

**Table: Occupation of Professionals**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percentage
<b>Doctors</b>	49	18.9	18.9	18.9
<b>Lawyer</b>	52	20.1	20.1	39.0
<b>Banker</b>	71	27.4	27.4	66.4
<b>Police</b>	89	33.6	33.6	100.0
<b>Total</b>	259	100.0	100.0	

The above table describes the details of research participants by the professions. There are 18.9% doctors, 20.1% lawyers, 27.4% bankers and 33.6% participants from police.

**Table: Comparison of attitudes toward teaching profession of male and female professionals**

Variable	Gender	N	M	Std.Deviation	Df	t-test	p-value
<b>Attitude toward Teaching Profession</b>	M	158	3.5347	.39877	257	-2.410	.017
	F	101	3.6845	.60139			

The above table reflects attitude toward teaching profession of male and female professionals. There exists significant difference ( $p=.017 < 0.05$ ) in attitudes of male and female professionals regarding the attitude toward teaching profession.

**Table: Comparison of attitudes of male and female professionals regarding Orientation towards teaching profession**

Variable	Gender	N	M	Std.Deviation	df	t-test	p-value
Orientation toward Teaching	M	158	3.2523	.51626	257	-1829	.069
	F	101	3.3960	.74857			

The above table reflects the difference in attitude of Orientation toward teaching profession with respect to gender among male and female professionals (doctors, bankers, lawyers and police officers). There is no significant difference ( $p=.069 > 0.05$ ) in attitudes of male and female regarding orientation toward teaching profession.

**Table:** Comparison of attitudes of male and female professionals regarding social status of teaching profession

Variable	Gender	N	M	Std.Deviation	df	t-test	p-value
Social Status	M	158	3.8376	.48467	257	.098	.922
	F	101	3.8306	.66083			

The above table shows the difference of attitudes of male and female professionals regarding social status toward teaching profession. There does not exist significant difference ( $p=.922 > 0.05$ ) in attitudes about the social status with respect to male and female professionals.

**Table:** Comparison of attitudes of male and female professionals regarding Quality of Work in teaching profession

Variable	Gender	N	M	St. Deviation	df	t-test	p-value
Quality of Work	M	158	3.8331	.56214	257	-1.628	.105
	F	101	3.9604	.68760			

The analysis in the above table reveals the difference of attitudes about quality of work in teaching profession with respect to male and female professionals. There is no significant difference ( $p=.105 > 0.05$ ) in attitudes of male and female professionals regarding the quality of work in teaching profession

**Table:** Comparison of attitudes of male and female professionals regarding Personal Growth and Development in teaching profession

Variable	Gender	N	M	Std.Deviation	df	t-test	p-value
Personal Growth and Development	M	158	3.5027	.51159	257	-2.312	.022
	F	101	3.6775	.70324			

The above table shows the difference of attitudes in personal growth and development in teaching profession with respect to male and female professionals. There exists significant difference ( $p=.022 < 0.05$ ) in attitudes of male and female professionals regarding the personal growth and development in teaching profession.

**Table:** Comparison of attitudes of male and female professionals regarding financial benefits in teaching profession

Variable	Gender	N	M	St. Deviation	df	t-test	p-value
Financial Benefits	M	158	3.2479	.72165	257	-3.224	.001
	F	101	3.5578	.80327			

The above table reflects the difference of attitude about financial benefits in teaching profession with respect to male and female professionals. There exists significant difference ( $p=.001 < 0.05$ ) in attitudes of male and female professionals regarding financial benefits in teaching profession.

**Table:** Comparison of attitudes toward teaching profession of occupations (doctors, lawyers, bankers and police)

	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	p-value
ATP between Groups	6.627	3	2.209	10.080	.000
Within Groups	55.887	255	.219		
Total	62.514	258			

The above table reflects attitudes of the professionals from different fields ( doctors, lawyers, bankers and police) toward the teaching profession .The analysis reflects that there exists significant difference ( $p=.000 < 0.05$ ) in the attitudes of professionals toward teaching profession.

### 9. Conclusions

Male and female professionals (doctors, bankers, lawyers and policemen) do not have different attitudes toward teaching profession with respect to orientation toward teaching, social status and quality of work. Attitudes of male and female professionals are different about Personal Growth and Development in teaching profession. Male and female have different attitudes regarding financial benefits of teaching profession. There is no difference in attitudes toward teaching profession between the professionals living in urban and rural areas. Professionals from different fields have different attitudes toward teaching profession.

### 10. Discussions

The study results showed that male and female professionals (doctors, bankers, lawyers, and policemen) have different attitudes toward the teaching profession. The findings of this research are similar to Akbab (2013) findings at the University of Cambridge. The researcher investigated the opinion of people toward the teaching profession in the UK. There were more men than women who thought teaching an attractive career. This case was especially true for people who belong to an older age. The researcher stated that gender factor also affects regarding teaching profession. He also defined that females were more successful than males in the Turkish education department.

In primary schools, it is widely assumed that females are best suited for this profession. Lal and Shergill (2012) also defined differences in males and females attitudes toward the teaching profession. They compare their attitudes as females are more favorable than males toward teaching. To contradict the present study Cil (2000) showed that gender does not work to preserve the teaching profession. Lal and Shergill also revealed that males and females have no different attitudes toward teaching regarding Satisfaction in the job. The present study investigated that differences in attitudes of male and female professionals are because of the financial benefits of the teaching profession. Similarly, Capa & cil (2007) supports that financial benefits are essential in the teaching profession. Females positively affect this profession; insufficient financial compensations and suspension in paying wages are reasons for poor arrogance toward the teaching profession.

The results of the study depicted that professionals from different fields have different attitudes toward the teaching profession. Purdal and Mose (2017) supports this result; the purpose of their study was to identify the attitude of other professions toward the teaching profession in society. So, according to this study, different people in society have different attitudes toward the teaching profession. He also described the relation of teaching with other professions in the job market. He discussed that people of different professions have different attitudes as some of them think that teachers are the mirror of society. Okumb (2007)

described the attitude toward teaching as compared to doctors. Some professionals, during their primary and secondary schooling, do not select teaching as a profession.

Similarly, some of the professionals think that the teaching profession has only common skills compared to doctors and lawyers teachers are untrained people (Ngaroga, 1996). William (1990) defined everyone as a misunderstanding about the teaching profession. Everyone means every person in the society from any profession. All the previous researches support the result of the present study, So Professionals of different fields in society have different attitudes toward the teaching profession.

### 11. Recommendations

The under mention are some of the recommendations for the development of the teachers' status and attitude of other professionals towards teaching profession.

It is recommended that in order to ensure the positive attitude of other professionals towards teaching profession, the government must cultivate and develop conditions which are conducive to teaching profession, as well as encourage the continuous display of a positive attitude toward teaching. The services of educators should be given credit at domestic level. Governments should guarantee that teacher salaries are placed high seeing their role in country building. Teacher should be invigorated and respected on special event like annual day and other functions of the schools. Seminars and lectures should be directed for rising the image of the teachers in the eyes of the community.

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