



The Vocation above All. Portrait of Students who Prepare the Competitive Exam of Primary School Teachers

Fabienne Skoc-Gérôme

Education Nationale. Académie de Versailles.

France

fgerome@orange.fr

Abstract

The subject of this research that I am going to present you by poster, is the identity of some students who want to become primary school teachers. In the context of reform of recruitment and teacher training, and in a more general way, reform of school in France, we have tried to identify who are the students who prepare the competitive exam.

A questionnaire, with open and closed questions, was sent by email to 412 students, in a teacher training university institute (Rouen, University of High Normandy). Among them, 43 usable questionnaires were received, representing a response rate of approximately 10%. Obviously, our research does not allow us to generalize the interpretation of data. Without being scientifically representative of all the candidates, the results of this survey can be considered significant of the candidates who wish to become a primary school teacher.

The questionnaire was split in seven parts : the first one dealing with the socio-demographic aspect, the following parts dealing with the educational and university background, the itinerary who conduct to this job, the preparation to exercise this profession, the attractivity and the reasons of the choice of this profession, the vision of their future.

The profiles of the candidates, their background, although different, are relatively homogeneous. Attracted to this profession of primary school teacher by vocation, work with children, and perform a useful social function are the main reasons moved forward to justify the choice of the primary education.

In our poster, we will present the results of our research which show that :

Candidates are women, from the middle class, residing in the academy.

Candidates are former good students, who loved school and who wanted to become teacher.

Candidates have followed, with more or less success, a university course in literary profile.

Candidates follow a similar route, in pursuit of a common goal.

Candidates want a place of specializing vocational training, taught by education professionals.

Candidates mention the difficulty of preparing the same time a diploma and a competitive exam.

Candidates choose primary school, first to work with children while having the sense to exercise a useful social function.

Candidates are moving towards this profession mostly by vocation and are considering exercise it during long time.