

An Analysis of Primary School Pre-service Teachers' Attitudes towards Cursive Handwriting

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The aim of this study is to determine the primary school pre-service teachers' attitude toward cursive handwriting and to determine whether a significant difference exists among those pre-service teachers' attitude with respect to gender, class and their universities. Within the context of this aim, the following research questions were addressed:

- What are the attitudes of primary school pre-service teachers towards cursive handwriting?
- Is there a significant difference in attitudes towards cursive handwriting between male and female pre-service teachers?
- Are there significant differences in the attitudes of pre-service teachers towards cursive handwriting in different class level?
- Are there significant differences in the attitudes of pre-service teachers towards cursive handwriting in different universities?
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Since this study sought to explore whether there existed differences in attitudes of pre-service teachers towards cursive handwriting with respect variables such as gender, class level and universities the quantitative approach was the most appropriate design for this investigation. Descriptive method was used in this study. Participants were selected with criteria sampling which is the method of purposeful sampling and 705 primary school pre-service teachers in second, third and fourth classes in primary school education department from four different universities in Turkey have participated in this research. "The Scale for Attitude towards Cursive Handwriting" (SACH) developed by researcher has been used as data collection instrument. This scale is designed to measure the attitudes of primary school pre-service teachers toward cursive handwriting. The SACH consist of 41-item statements about attitudes toward cursive handwriting. The scores are calculated by assigning a value of 1 to 5 to Likert-type responses. For variables, mean and the standard deviation were calculated. ANOVA and t test were employed to identify the differences among the variables. In the result of this study, it is found out that the pre-service teachers' attitude toward cursive handwriting is generally middle level. Results showed that there was no significant effect of gender and universities of pre-service teachers on their attitudes toward cursive handwriting. On the other hand, results also revealed that there was found a significant effect of grade level as junior pre-service teachers had the highest, sophomore had the lowest cursive handwriting attitudes scores.

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