

The Relationship Between the Humanistic Values of Pre-Service Teachers of Information Technologies and Their Attitudes towards Teaching Profession

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Abstract—The purpose of this study is to determine the relationship between the humanistic values of pre-service teachers of information technologies and their attitudes towards teaching profession. Moreover, the relationship between the teachers' demographic information and their attitudes towards teaching profession and their humanistic values were also examined. The study group was composed of 218 pre-service teachers – 93 males and 125 females – enrolled in the Departments of Computer Education and Instructional Technologies at Necmettin Erbakan University and Trakya University. In the study, “The Scale for the Attitudes towards Teaching Profession”, “The Scale for Humanistic Values” and “Personal Information Form” were used. SPSS 15 package software was utilized during the data analysis and .05 was taken as the significance level. At the end of the study, it was found that the attitudes of pre-service teachers towards teaching profession was at medium level and there was a significant relationship between their attitudes towards teaching profession and their humanistic values. It was also determined that the pre-service teachers with higher attitudes towards teaching profession had higher humanistic values. In addition to this, female pre-service teachers had higher attitudes towards teaching profession and higher humanistic values when compared to the male pre-service teachers.

Index Terms—attitudes towards teaching profession, humanistic values, pre-service teacher

I. INTRODUCTION

IN today's world, information and communication technologies provide the individuals with a great amount of data and various opportunities. It has become possible to reach unlimited amount of information through the Internet which is like an information repository. The ones who move to places which are kilometers away can easily reach many libraries and databases around the world from their homes. This information should be used to construct new information and this constructed information should be used for the benefit of humanity. Thus, the humanistic values that the individuals possess are quite important. It is considered that the humanistic values of individuals could affect or determine their behaviors. The humanistic values had an

important role in determining and guiding the individuals' attitudes and behaviors [1].

Throughout the history, the societies have attempted to determine what is right and what is wrong for the individuals' attitudes and behaviors. According to [2], the values took an important role in determining the normal and abnormal behaviors in the society. Hereby, the educational policies of societies are formed and developed. The general objectives to be provided for the individuals through the educational system are determined. Teachers with certain qualifications and values are required in order to accomplish these objectives.

Teachers had important roles in raising a generation. Teachers could both guide their students for gaining new information and skills and guide their students for constructing values and develop their own values. The attitudes of teachers towards their profession are as important as their humanistic values in order to accomplish their profession at a desired level. [3] mentioned that pre-service teachers' gaining attitudes towards their profession is as important as gaining information since teaching profession requires affective competencies like attitudes and values in addition to the cognitive competencies like knowledge and skills. [4] also expressed that the attitudes of teachers towards teaching profession is an important indicator of their behaviors in their profession.

II. METHOD

A. Research Model

In this study, which aimed at determining the relationship between the attitudes of pre-service teachers of Information Technologies (IT) and their humanistic values, single and correlational survey models were used. While single survey model was used in order to describe the personal information of pre-service teachers, correlational survey model was used to determine the relationship between the pre-service teachers' attitudes towards teaching profession and their humanistic values in terms of some variables in the study.

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B. Study Group

The study group of the study was composed of 218 pre-service teachers – 93 males and 125 females – enrolled in the Departments of Computer Education and Instructional Technology, Faculties of Education at Necmettin Erbakan University and Trakya University in 2012-2013 Educational Year. Of the pre-service teachers, 187 decided on teaching as their profession willingly while 31 did involuntarily.

C. Data Collection Tools

The Scale for the Attitudes towards Teaching Profession

It is 5-point-Likert scale composed of 35 items and developed by [4]. This scale was composed of 3 dimensions and there are 22 items in “love” dimension, 8 items in “value” dimension” and 5 items in “adaptation” dimension. While entering the data into computer, the positive statements were scored as 5,4,3,2,1 from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree”. The minimum score to be obtained from the scale was 35 (35*1) and the highest score was 175 (35*5). The higher scores indicated that the individual or the group had higher attitudes towards teaching profession. The internal consistency coefficient (Cronbach's Alpha) was calculated for the reliability of the study and the internal consistency coefficient was found to be .95.

The Scale for Humanistic Values

It is Likert scale which was developed by [3] and composed of 42 items in six dimensions as “Responsibility” (7 items); “Friendship” (7 items); “Being Peaceful” (7 items); “Respect” (7 items); “Tolerance” (7 items) and “Honesty” (7 items). The positive statements were scored as 5,4,3,2,1 from “Always” to “Never”. The higher scores indicated that the individuals had higher humanistic values. The internal consistency coefficient (Cronbach's Alpha) was calculated for the reliability of the study and the internal consistency coefficient was found to be .92.

Personal Information Form

In this form, some question items like gender and GPA, which helped to provide information to associate with the scales for the attitudes towards teaching profession and humanistic values, were available.

D. Data Collection

The Scale for the Attitudes towards Teaching Profession, The Scale for Humanistic Values and Personal Information For, which were used as data collection tools for the study, were combined and photocopied. The photocopied data collection tools were implemented to the students enrolled in the Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technologies and attended the courses during the implementation of the study. During the implementation, 228 students completed the data collection tool; however, 13 data collection tool were omitted as they were not completed properly.

E. Data Analysis

Correlation analysis was utilized in order to determine whether there was a significant correlation between the attitudes of pre-service teachers of IT towards teaching profession and their learning strategies. The t-test was used in order to determine whether the attitudes of pre-service teachers of IT and their humanistic values varied according to their gender.

III. FINDINGS

The descriptive statistics prepared in order to determine the levels of attitudes of IT pre-service teachers towards teaching profession were presented in Fig. I.

TABLE I
 THE ATTITUDES OF IT PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS TOWARDS TEACHING PROFESSION

	n	The Lowest	The Highest	\bar{X}	Sd
The Attitude towards Teaching Profession	218	107	170	133.07	18.09

According to the mean score obtained from the scale, a low group, which is below the standard variation, a high group, which is above the standard variation, and a medium group, in which there were students from both groups, were determined. According to the distribution, the groups were organized as Low Group: below 115 points (low level), Medium Group: between 115-151 points (medium level) and High Group: above 152 points (high level). Based on this distribution, the number of pre-service teachers in the low group was 24, the number of pre-service teachers in the medium group was 155 and the number of pre-service teachers in the high group was 39. According to this finding, the attitudes of IT pre-service teachers can be considered at medium level.

The relationship between the attitudes of IT pre-service teachers towards teaching profession and their humanistic values were determined through correlation analysis. The findings are presented in Fig. II.

TABLE II
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ATTITUDES TOWARDS TEACHING PROFESSION AND THE HUMANISTIC VALUES

Variables	n	r
Attitude-Humanistic Values	218	0.43

As it can be seen in Table 2, there is a significant relationship between the attitudes of IT pre-service teachers towards teaching profession and their humanistic values. In other words, while the attitudes of IT pre-service teachers towards teaching profession increase, their humanistic values increase as well.

The t-test was used in order to determine whether the attitudes of IT pre-service teachers towards teaching profession varied or not. The results of the analysis are presented in Fig. III.

TABLE III

THE RESULTS OF T-TEST FOR THE ATTITUDES OF IT PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS TOWARDS TEACHING PROFESSION AND THEIR HUMANISTIC VALUES ACCORDING TO THEIR GENDER

Variable	Group	n	\bar{X}	Sd	df	t
Attitude towards Teaching Profession	Female	125	138,74	18,27	216	2.56
	Male	93	121,18	17,96		
Humanistic Values	Female	125	178.02	26.19	216	2.19
	Male	93	154.78	29.43		

At the end of the *t*-test, it was found that there was a 17,56 point difference between the female and male pre-service teachers in terms of their attitude scores towards teaching profession in favor of the female pre-service teachers ($t= 2.56, p<.05$). Based on this result, it could be claimed that female pre-service teachers had more positive attitudes towards teaching profession when compared to the male pre-service teachers. Moreover, 23.24 point difference was found between the humanistic value scores of female and male pre-service teachers in favor of female pre-service teachers ($t= 2.19, p<.05$). In other words, the humanistic value scores of female pre-service teachers were higher than those of male pre-service teachers.

IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Use In this study, in which the relationship between the attitudes of IT pre-service teachers towards teaching profession and their humanistic values were examined, it was found that the attitudes of pre-service teachers towards teaching profession was at medium level. In addition to this, a significant difference was found between the attitudes towards teaching profession and humanistic values. It was also determined that the higher the levels of attitudes of IT pre-service teachers towards teaching profession, the higher their humanistic values were. When the attitudes of IT pre-service teachers towards teaching profession were examined whether they varied according to the gender, it was found that female pre-service teachers had higher level of attitude than the male pre-service teachers. When humanistic values of IT pre-service teachers were examined whether they varied according to the gender, it was also found that female pre-service had higher level of humanistic values than the male pre-service teachers.

At the end of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- IT pre-service teachers can be trained in terms of humanistic values in order to increase their attitudes towards teaching profession.
- Trainings for humanistic values can be organized and the effects of these trainings can be examined.
- Further research can be carried out to determine the reasons why female pre-service teachers had higher level of attitudes towards teaching profession and humanistic values.

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