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Teachers' Experience with Lack of Resources in Classrooms

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Teachers' Experience with Lack of Resources in Classrooms

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INTRODUCTION

- Teachers feel a burden when having to compensate for the lack of materials available to them.
- Teachers are not receiving support financially and socially from the administration.
- Lack of resources includes overcrowded classrooms, lack of technology, materials such as paper, pencils, backpacks. This lack of resources negatively impacts their teaching experience.
- Not receiving professional support from the administration
- These reasons listed above could influence teachers to leave their profession.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are teachers' experiences with shortages of resources, and how does it impact their teaching strategies?

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Previous research indicates that teachers feel stressed and isolated (Kaufhold, Alvarez, Arnold, 2006)
- Lack of resources and burnout impacts teachers' mental health and financial stability (Shernoff, Metta, Atkins, Spencer, 2011).
- Among various reasons, burnout and not educating teachers enough in their profession leads to teachers leaving their careers, contributing to a teacher shortage (Adamson, Frank, Linda, 2012).
- Teachers who did not have proper materials searched for other job opportunities (Lashway, 2003).

METHODS

- Qualitative research
- Pilot study
- Sample method
- The sample included three high school teachers from different schools
- Interview duration 30-60 minutes
- Interview protocol included 23 questions

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS



Summary of Preliminary Findings

- Most teachers lack materials.
- Conflicting statements, at the beginning of the interview, stated that they did not need materials but then added that they needed funding
- Teacher's had different concepts of what "materials" meant
- Affected teachers in different ways, from stressed to neutral about the lack of materials

Stress

"I was very stressed. I was having nightmares, crying, and I am not a crier. Obviously, teaching is hard, and you get stressed out."

Administrative Support

"My supervisor was changing all the time, and every supervisor wanted something different. Would critique me for something my other supervisor told me to do, and I felt like I was always in trouble for something I was told to do. Admin would never say anything positive".

Finances

"Even though I spent a lot of money at prior schools ...I always spend, I am still spending even though I left and I have more materials now, I spend a lot, I spend more than usual. I was excited that kids were coming back, and I overdid it this year."

Teacher Turnover

"Anti-immigrant rhetoric anti- Latino rhetoric, that is why I left, it was hard to teach in that environment. (In the lunchroom, someone said at one point), you know what the problem here is at this school it is turning into little Mexico' it was very common rhetoric."

DISCUSSION

Implications for this Pilot Study are as follows:

- A lack of resources can lead to higher turnover as well as teachers leaving their profession
- The administration should solve issues impacting teachers' experiences to minimize the teacher shortage in the Clark County School District.

Next Steps

- Interview more teachers to elaborate on findings
- Verify that findings hold

Importance

- Communicate results to decision-makers advocate for teachers