



Effectiveness of School Internship Program in enhancing the pedagogical skills of the student teachers

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Abstract: *The teacher education curriculum of every Teacher Education College aims at making the student teachers a competent teacher who can shoulder the responsibility of making the learners an asset for the nation. The teacher education curriculum deliberately includes a crucial course which is, School Internship. The aim of including this course in the program is to help the student teachers learn the numerous nitty-gritties associated with the attainment of practical facets of classroom teaching. Mere acquisition of theoretical knowledge isn't sufficient to suffice the student teachers with the primary as well as secondary learnings for classroom teaching. This research aims at analyzing the effectiveness of school internship program in enhancing the pedagogical skills of the student teachers. The data for this study was collected from fourth semester student teachers of a prestigious educational institution and their responses were taken as the base for analyzing the effectiveness of the school internship program. The results indicate that the school internship program is undoubtedly effective in aiding the student teachers in enhancing the pedagogical skills.*

Key Words: *School Internship program, Student Teachers, Pedagogical skills, Teacher Education College, Teacher Education curriculum.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

In the words of Barney Baszuro, “Interns are like not-cut diamonds; They have flaws, some of them are totally worthless, but once you cut them well, they can become something great one day, And that’s what I’m doing, I’m cutting diamonds...” There has been a paradigm shift in the school internship courses throughout the nation. The course has been proposed by NCTE which states that there should be coordination between the theoretical and the practical facets and this should religiously adhere to by all the Teacher Education Colleges. Within the ambit of this course, there is a collaboration between colleges and schools to impart training to the student teachers. All the student teachers amalgamate the theoretical knowledge with the practical knowledge. The internship period provides them room for gaining exposure and experience which can prove to be effective after getting placed. Thereby, it can be said that education has moved beyond the four walls of the brick-and-mortar classrooms and field experience aids in the harmonious development of student teachers. In the field, the student teachers attain not only the soft skills but also the hard skills. The program aids in absolute overhauling of their demeanors.

It is believed that the program holds immense significance and it aids in the professional development of student teachers. It provides them an opportunity to understand the functioning of a school and the prospects associated with it. The student teachers in every Teacher Education College are being exposed to numerous facets for successfully acquiring the pedagogical skills. The curriculum includes a crucial course, which is, School Internship, and it aims at providing practical exposure to the pupils who are going to shoulder the responsibility of teaching the learners in the near future. This study aims at analyzing the effectiveness of the school internship program in helping the student teachers enhance their pedagogical skills.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Parveen, Saleha & Mirza, Nida. (2012), in the study on “Internship Program in Education: Effectiveness, Problems and Prospects” delineated that the school internship program holds immense significance as it ensures that



the student teachers are professional prepared. It provides them with a platform for practical exposure for in-depth understanding of the profession and the various prospects associated with it. The research studied the issues and challenges that prove to be a hinderance for the student teachers. The research approach adopted was both quantitative and qualitative. The sample for this study were 80 student teachers and 5 principals belonging to collaborative schools. Three-point likert scale and in-depth interviews were used for data collection. The results indicate that the program is crucial and that it has an optimistic impact on the student teachers.

Jogan, Dr. S.N. (2019) in the study on “Evaluating the Effectiveness of a School Internship” expounded that the school internship program plays a vital role in the successful completion of professional courses. The target of this course is to provide the student teachers with the exposure on the various roles of a teacher which includes imparting the subject matter knowledge to the learners and mastery over the pedagogy. The program provides a platform for integration of theoretical and practical knowledge. The research had tried to analyze the program on the basis of the feedback provided by the student teachers. The aim of the study was to analyze the perception of the student teachers, to aid them in becoming fit for the profession and to figure out tentative solutions for the challenges encountered by them. The data collection for this study was done by the filling the questionnaires via Google forms by the student teachers. Percentage analysis was used by the researcher. The results expound that the student teachers have successfully developed integrated skills of teaching and this became possible through effective guidance and feedback. The student teachers were extremely satiated throughout the program.

Lobo, Joseph. (2023) in the study on “An inquiry on the effectiveness of the teaching internship program based on pre-service teachers’ appraisal” discussed that internship is a vital facet of professional development of teacher education. The aim of this study was to analyze the implementation of the program of the Institution of Education, Arts and Sciences at City College of Angeles, particularly, learners of Bachelor of Physical Education and Bachelor of Performing Arts. This study also analyzed the influence of Institutional (IE) and Company Evaluation (CE) on Program Effectiveness (PE). 84 student teachers were chosen as the sample which comprised of 38 males 46 females. The student teachers found the program to be quite effective as it caters to the needs of the stakeholders. It also aids the student teachers in developing requisite skills. At last, the paper delineated the recommendations and a path for further research in relation to this study.

3. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY:

The objective of the study is to analyse the effectiveness of school internship program in enhancing the pedagogical skills of the student teachers.

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- RQ1: Were you able to implement the learnings attained from the B.Ed program during your school internship?
- RQ2: Did simulated teaching prove to be an effective method in improving your pedagogical skills?
- RQ3: Did designing of lesson plans as a part of the B.Ed program aided during the school internship?
- RQ4: Did peer observation prove to be an effective strategy for your professional development?
- RQ5: Did designing teaching aids during you B.Ed program help you during your internship?
- RQ6: Did the faculty feedback provided during the internship aided in enriching your classroom teaching?
- RQ7: Were you able to master the micro skills during the school internship?
- RQ8: Were you able to master the management skills during the school internship?
- RQ9: Were you able to master the communication skills during the school internship?
- RQ10: Were you able to master the teaching methodologies during the school internship?

5. METHODOLOGY OF STUDY:

This study is descriptive research. Survey method was used. Purposive sampling methodology was used to collect data via a self-constructed questionnaire and a focus group interview from the student teachers of fourth semester of a prestigious educational institution. The scale included questions of degree of agreement.

6. ANALYSIS:

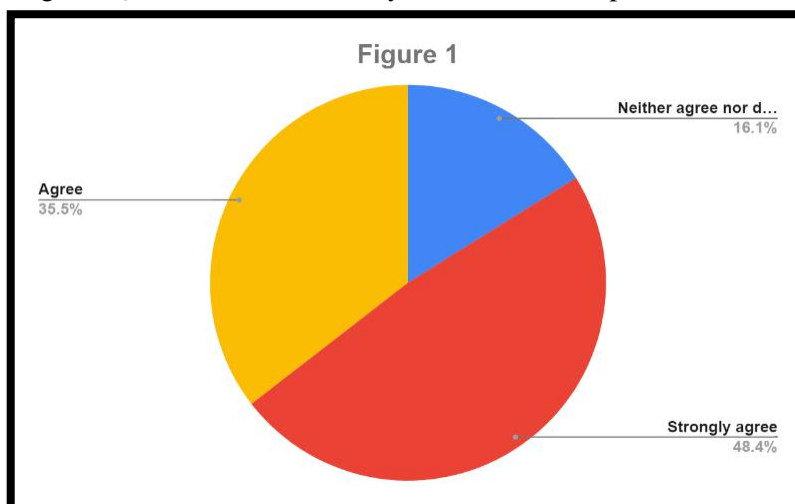
The questionnaire was on the effectiveness of the school internship program. The respondents had to fill the questionnaire (comprising of 10 questions) based on the experience gained during the school internship program in esteemed schools.

Research Objective: To analyse the effectiveness of school internship program in enhancing the pedagogical skills of the student teachers.

To achieve the research objective the students were asked the following research questions:

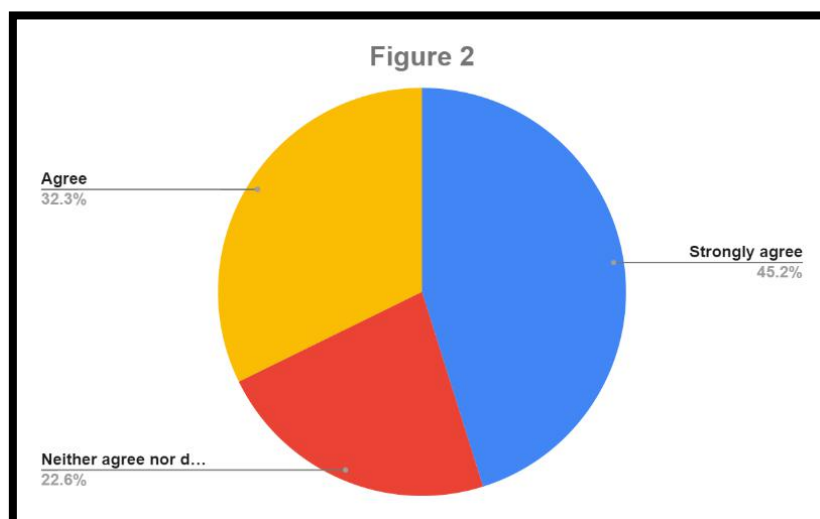
Research Question 1: Were you able to implement the learnings attained from the B.Ed program during your school internship?

The data was collected using the Questionnaire. The analysis of the same is presented below:



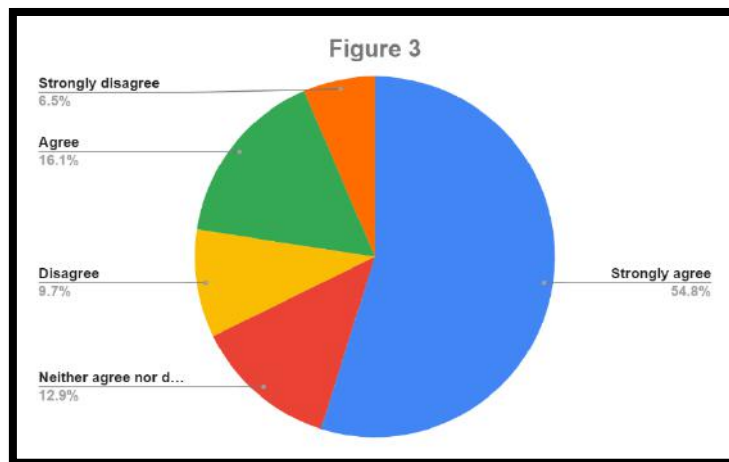
According to Figure 1, 48.4% student teachers were able to implement the learnings attained from the B.Ed program during the school internship.

Research Question 2: Did simulated teaching prove to be an effective method in improving your pedagogical skills?



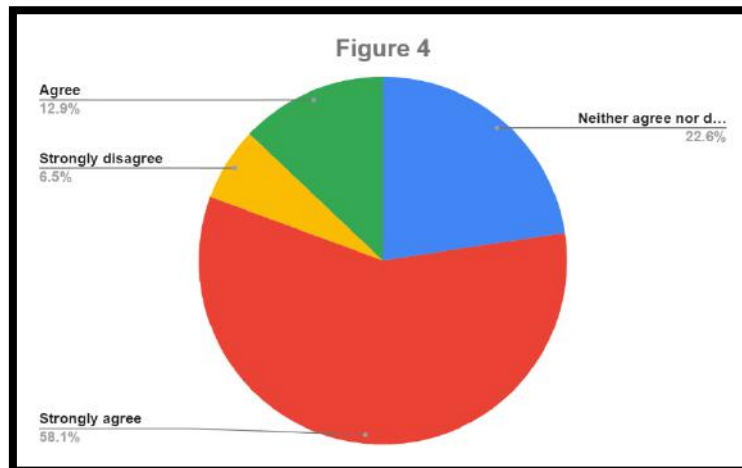
According to Figure 2, 45.2% student teachers state that simulated teachings proved to be an effective method in improving their pedagogical skills.

Research Question 3: Did designing of lesson plans as a part of the B.Ed program aided during the school internship?



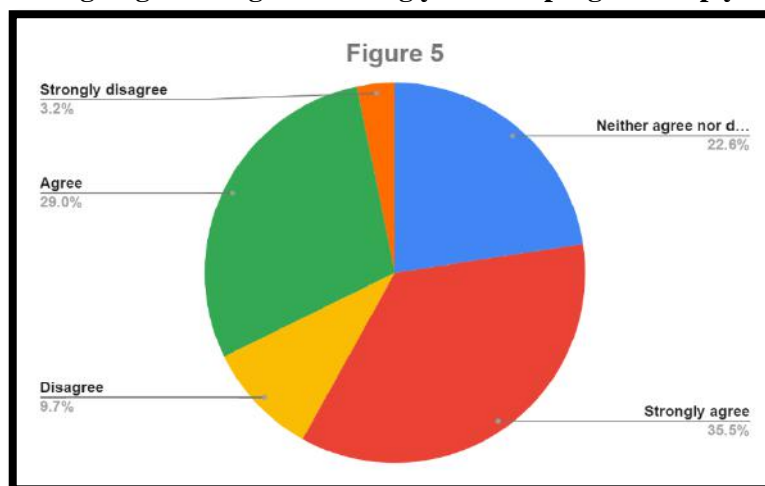
According to Figure 3, 54.8% student teachers believe that designing of lesson plans as a part of the B.Ed program aided during the school internship.

Research Question 4: Did peer observation prove to be an effective strategy for your professional development?



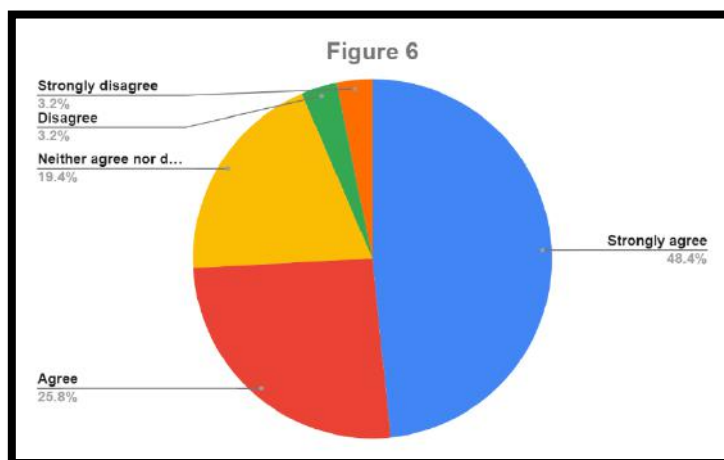
According to Figure 4, 58.1% student teachers believed that peer observation proved to be an effective strategy for their professional development.

Research Question 5: Did designing teaching aids during you B.Ed program help you during your internship?



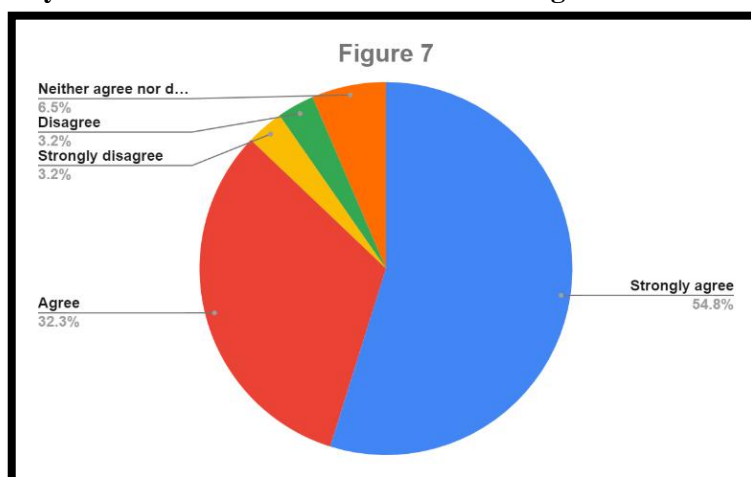
According to Figure 5, 35.5% student teachers believed that designing teaching aids during the B.Ed program helped them during their internship.

Research Question 6: Did the faculty feedback provided during the internship aided in enriching your classroom teaching?



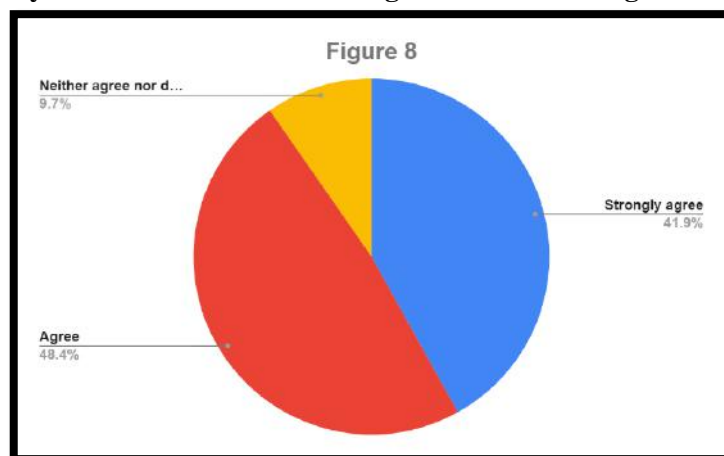
According to Figure 6, 48.4% student teachers opined that the faculty feedback provided during the internship aided in enriching their classroom teaching.

Research Question 7: Were you able to master the micro skills during the school internship?



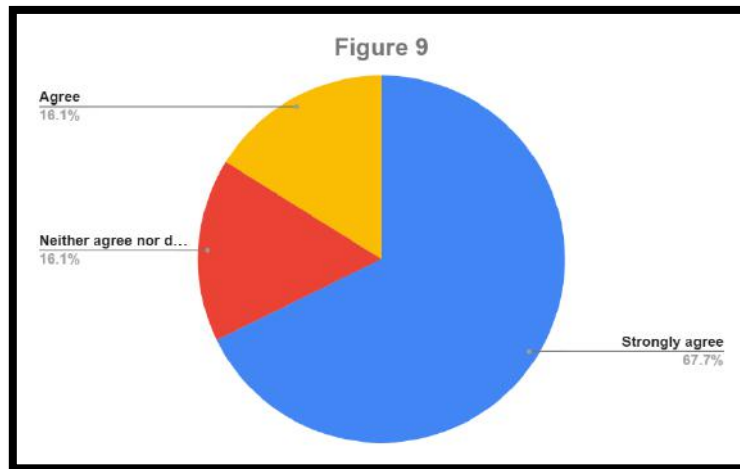
According to Figure 7, 54.8% student teachers were able to master the micro skills during the school internship.

Research Question 8: Were you able to master the management skills during the school internship?



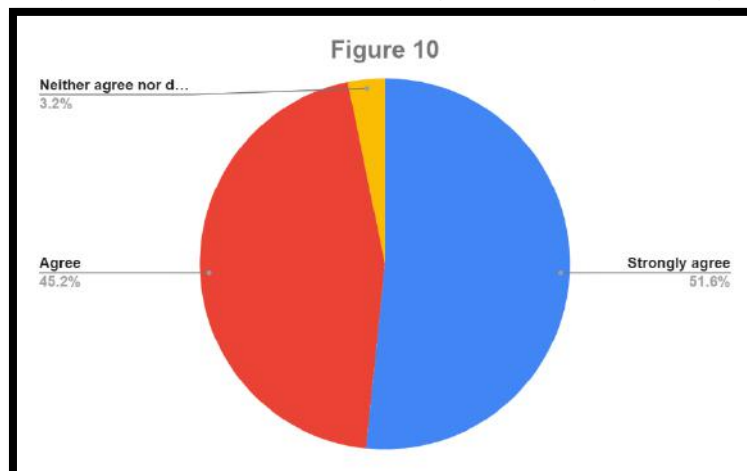
According to Figure 8, 41.9% student teachers were able to master the management skills during the school internship.

Research Question 9: Were you able to master the communication skills during the school internship?



According to Figure 9, 67.7% student teachers were able to master the communication skills during the school internship.

Research Question 10: Were you able to master the teaching methodologies during the school internship?



According to Figure 10, 51.6% student teachers were able to master the teaching methodologies during the school internship.

7. FINDINGS:

According to Atkinson William, Internship is nothing but a stepping stone to work environment to an entry level candidate who is looking for a job. This study was aimed at analysing the effectiveness of the school internship program in enhancing the pedagogical skills of the student teachers. It was found that the school internship program is undoubtedly effective and aids the student teachers in their harmonious development.

8. CONCLUSION:

Thus, in the nutshell, it can be stated that the teacher education curriculum leaves no stone unturned in making the student teachers proficient teachers who can effectively shoulder the responsibility of producing the maximum number of literates. They aid in making them someone who can looked upon with pride. School Internship, which is a crucial course, involving the amalgamation of theoretical and practical knowledge, is undoubtedly effective in making the student teachers competent teachers.



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