

The Relationship between Teachers Motivation and Physical Education Teaching Strategies among Primary School Teachers in Southern Thailand

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Abstract

Teacher motivation is a critical factor in physical education (PE) teaching in primary school. However, a previous study on a primary school in Thailand found that teachers generally lack motivation for teaching and ignore their PE classes. In addition, the PE teachers focus more on sports skills and competition and are unable to create new teaching methods. This could then influence their effectiveness in teaching. Thus, there is need to investigate the relationship between teacher motivation and teaching strategies. The instruments used for data collection were two questionnaires, namely The Autonomous Motivation for Teaching Questionnaire (AMTQ) and The Self-Evaluation of Teacher Effectiveness Questionnaire in Physical Education (SETEQ-PE). The survey design was adapted to collect data. The respondents were 269 PE teachers from primary schools in Southern Thailand. The data were analyzed using two statistical software namely, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 for preliminary data analysis and the Partial Least Square- Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) version 3 which was used to investigate the structural equation model. This study found that there are significant relationships between external, identified, and intrinsic motivation with teaching strategies. On the other hand, there is no significant relationship between the introjected motivation and the teaching strategies among primary school teachers. This study provides empirical evidence to support the importance of teacher motivation and teaching strategies and to encourage teachers to increase their motivation for teaching in order to develop more effective PE teaching. However, the respondents of the study were teachers in primary schools in Southern Thailand provinces; hence, the scope and context of the results of the study apply only to teachers in those areas.

Keywords: Teacher Motivation, Physical Education teaching, teaching strategy, Southern Thailand



Introduction

Some diseases such as obesity can be prevented by exercise (Booth, Roberts & Laye, 2012; Wang et al., 2017), which students must recognize and acknowledge to enable them to realize the benefits of exercise, which is covered by Physical Education (PE) taught in schools. This is because PE aims for students to exercise and engage in physical activities such as sports. Thus, PE teaching and learning process in schools should be highly effective.

Due to the nature of physical education, general classrooms may include gymnasiums, courts, pools, track and fields, and football fields. Students then have to move to a bigger size classroom, an open field or a big space to enable them to move around based on their needs (Cothran & Kulinna, 2015). Thus, several factors influence the improvement and effectiveness of physical education teaching. One of the main factors is teacher motivation. According to Tulyakul, Omar-Fauzee and Hussin (2018), motivation for teaching is a key influence and has a positive relationship with teaching effectiveness. A teacher who lacks motivation leads to ineffective teaching (Muranda, Ncube, Mapolisa & Tshabalala, 2015; UNESCO, 2015). Moreover, Ofoegbu (2004) argues that teacher motivation is an essential element for an effective classroom. Furthermore, the results from Ofoegbu's study confirmed that most of the respondents agreed that teacher motivation is a necessary element in determining classroom effectiveness. Therefore, encouraging and interested teachers are important in providing effective education (Hornstra, Mansfield, van der Veen, Peetsma & Volman, 2015).

Nevertheless, the Secretariat of Education (2010a; 2010b; 2010c) found that Thai teachers were ineffective, had truancy problems, and lacked the motivation to work. Moreover, physical educators disregard their classroom because they focus on upgrading their position and salary (Kwanboonchan, 2015). They hardly had the incentive to teach. Hence, it is a challenge to investigate their motivation for teaching because high motivation positively affects effective teaching and motivated teachers (UNESCO, 2015).

Not only does teacher motivation affect PE teaching but teaching strategies are very important to develop greater effectiveness in teaching PE. According to Husain, Hasan, Wahab and Jantan (2015), teachers who can create their teaching methods are effective teachers. Moreover, Kyrgiridis, Derri, Emmanouilidou, Chlapoutaki and Kioumourtzoglou (2014) argue that teaching strategies can help evaluate the effectiveness of PE teaching. On the other hand, it has been found that PE teachers in primary schools still focus on developing sports skills for competition (Maieam, 2003). Additionally, Nampai (2015) also found that the teaching approaches of teachers currently do not provide a clear understanding of the importance of physical education, and they also decrease interest and participation in PE classes.



Unfortunately, empirical studies that investigate the relationship between teacher motivation and teaching strategies are limited. Thus, it is necessary to examine the relationship between teacher motivation and teaching strategies in PE classes among primary schools in Southern Thailand in order to develop effective PE teachers and support the efficiency of students' learning in Thailand.

Objectives of study

This study aims to examine the relationship between teachers' motivation and physical education teaching strategies among primary school teachers in Southern Thailand. The study focuses on the dimensions of teachers' motivation aspects, namely external, introjected, identified, and intrinsic motivation in relation to PE teaching strategies.

Research Hypotheses

Ho 1: There is no significant relationship between external motivation and teaching strategies.

Ho 2: There is no significant relationship between introjected motivation and teaching strategies.

Ho 3: There is no significant relationship between identified motivation and teaching strategies.

Ho 4: There is no significant relationship between intrinsic motivation and teaching strategies.

Literature Review

Motivation for teaching

The issue of teacher motivation deserves specific study due to the importance of the teacher's character in the lives of the students and in the society. (Stirling, 2014; UNESCO, 2015). Similarly, motivation can also increase cognitive process. According to Kong (2014), motivation can usually influence what and how the information is processed. Furthermore, motivation, as stated by Bhoje (2015), will result in the enhancement of energy as well as the effort to do things. Consistent with, Suhag, Larik, Tagar, and Solangi (2016) assert that motivation can intensify the commencement and sustainability of events for example, teachers continue with teaching their students during their free time and try to perform other activities concerning their job. Thus, it is essential to study the motivations for teaching because low motivation and ineffective teachers affect teaching negatively.



Autonomous Motivation for Teaching

Self-Determination Theory (SDT) is a theory of human motivation in the organismic or humanistic tradition (Deci & Ryan, 1985). It is suggested that there are three keys principal in SDT namely; amotivation, extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Firstly, the *amotivation*, in which a person there is no autonomous, without pressure to communicate of, lack of control and is probably struggling to have any of their wishes met. Secondly, there are four elements of extrinsic motivation namely; (a) *External regulation*, in which the motivation that to get the reward, praise or avoid the punishments when to do something. (b) *Introjected regulation*, the individual who has this regulation inspires an individual to enact a behavior is do something because if not do, will fear and shame. (c) *Identified regulation*, refer to behavior that acknowledges and recognize in their activities. The PE teacher is working because she believed that teaching is essential for her. (d) *Integrated regulation* is the person is beginning to be inspired through intrinsic sources and want to be self-aware and act in congruence with his or her core values and feel of self. Lastly, the intrinsic motivation which consist of one regulator; that is intrinsic regulation. The *intrinsic regulation* is driven by internal reason, and when he or she does something it is purely because interest, happy and enjoyment.

The Roth, Assor, Kanat-Maymon, and Kaplan (2007) autonomous motivation for teaching is adapted from the Self-Determination Theory (SDT)'s framework (Deci & Ryan, 1985), which has two dimensions: autonomous and controlled motivation. The autonomous motivation for teachers used all the SDT regulations motivation (intrinsic, external, introjected and identified regulation), except amotivation and integrated regulation. This is because an amotivation was not counted because it is neither autonomous nor controlled motivation. In terms of the integrated regulation was not examined because the previous studies (e.g., Blais, Lachance, Vallerand, Briere & Riddle, 1993; Pelletier, Séguin-Lévesque & Legault, 2002); Roth et al., 2007; Ryan & Cornell, 1989) did not distinguish between identified and integrated regulations.

There are two elements of autonomous motivation for teaching namely; autonomous and controlled motivation (Roth et al., 2007). In particular, the autonomous motivations are intrinsic and identified regulation, whereas controlled motivations include external and introjected regulations. There are differences between autonomous and controlling forms of motivation. This difference is sometimes perceived by reflecting and looking at the basis or root of the behavior of individuals in a given situation (Legault, 2017). According to Roth (2014) autonomous motivation refers to behaviors implemented with a feel of commitment and select. It includes two dimensions, namely intrinsic and identified regulation.

On the other hand, controlling motivation opposes intrinsic motivation in the self-determination continuum. It engages in the behavior induced by external reinforcement such as obtaining a reward or avoiding punishment (Ryan & Deci, 2000). In parallel external regulation lies introjected regulation which reflects behavioral engagement induced by perceived internal pressures, for instance, avoiding shame or guilt or gaining contingent self-worth or pride (Wouters, Verschueren, Briers, van der Kaap-Deeder, Deeren & Vansteenkiste, 2016).

Teaching strategies

Garza, Alejandro, Blythe, and Fite (2014) pose that accomplished teachers ensure students' success by focusing their instructions on students' individual needs and interests. Besides, teachers also demonstrate care and concern for each student. Teachers vary their pedagogical approach strategically to provide students with authentic connections to their content area (Paterson, Dumont, Lafuente & Law, 2018). Additionally, Egeberg, McConney, and Price (2016) emphasize that accomplished physical education teachers should utilize effective teaching practices. As mentors, such teachers develop meaningful relationships with their students to help them overcome difficulties, accept challenges, and achieve previously unattainable goals. Accomplished teachers demonstrate skills and creativity when using instructional tools to target students with varied learning styles including visual, auditory, read-write, or kinesthetic. This thereby supports effective instructions to all students (Gentry, 2013). Physical education teachers thoughtfully determine which approach will assist each student in the most productive way. They differentiate certain instructions to ensure participation and encourage student success at all levels (Whipp, Taggart & Jackson, 2014).

Bevans, Fitzpatrick, Sanchez, Riley, and Forrest (2010) suggest that physical education teachers should employ local resources to engage students in different learning experiences. The teachers may thus conduct a class session at a public golf course. They could also encourage students to participate in a regional fun run. Through physical education associations, alliances, and initiatives, teachers connect their students with other learners worldwide. As a result, students will become more involved in effective and creative programs sponsored by the larger health and fitness community. Moreover, accomplished teachers use different educational strategies and settings in an attempt to motivate and encourage students to participate in challenging physical activities (Eather, Morgan & Lubans, 2013).

Methods

Study Design

This study employed a quantitative method and cross-sectional sectional research design, involving physical education teachers who are teaching the physical education class in primary schools in Southern Thailand as participants. The objectives of this study were to investigate the relationship between teacher motivation and teaching strategies. The instruments include two questionnaires to collect data concerning the purposes of the present investigation.

Population

The population of this study comprises all physical education teachers who teach physical education classes in large government primary schools in Southern Thailand. It is worth noting that there were approximately 699 teachers in 322 large primary schools in all 14 provinces of Southern Thailand in the school year 2017 (Education Management Information System, 2016).

Research sampling, as defined by Bryman and Bell (2003), is “the segment of the population selected for investigation or a subset of the population” (Bryman & Bell, 2003; p. 93). According to Krejcie and Morgan’s (1970) sampling table, the sample size for this study was 248 physical education teachers. Moreover, the researcher had an oversampling of 20 percent which led to 298 overall samples. The justification for oversampling was aimed to prevent losing participants due to unreturned questionnaires, incomplete responses and questionnaires with missing (Vaughan, 2017).

After determining the number of the participants using stratified random sampling, the total number of the respondents who teach in primary schools in the provinces was determined through simple random sampling. According to Berger and Zhang (2005), through this sampling, everyone in the large population has an equal chance of being chosen. The researcher used simple random sampling to select the samples.

Data Collection Method

This study used self-administered questionnaires method and post service to collect data. A total of 298 physical education teachers from primary schools in Southern Thailand responded to the questionnaires. Two hundred and sixty-nine were returned, while 29 sets were not returned. Moreover, two hundred and fifty-eight were completed. However, 11 sets had problems.

Instruments

Two questionnaires were used to collect data in this study. The first one was The Autonomous Motivation for Teaching Questionnaire (AMTQ) adapted from Roth et al. (2007) was employed to collect data on the teacher motivation aspect. The second one, the Self-Evaluation Teacher Effectiveness in Physical Education (SETEQ-PE) questionnaire, was adapted from Kyrgiridis et al. (2014) which was used to collect data on teaching strategies. The questionnaires had the reliability values of 0.86 and 0.89 respectively.

Data Analysis

The data collected from the respondents were analyzed using two statistical software, namely Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 used for preliminary data analysis and the Partial Least Square- Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) version 3 which was used in examining the formation of reflective measurement model and structural equation model.

Table 1 Frequency and Percentage of Respondents based on Gender, Age, Name of Academic Major, Teaching Experience.

| Profile | Factors | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Gender | Total | 258 | 100 % |
| | - Male | 203 | 78.7% |
| | - Female | 55 | 21.3% |
| Age | Total | 258 | 100% |
| | - Less than 25 | 15 | 5.8% |
| | - 26 to 35 | 73 | 28.3% |
| | - 36 to 45 | 86 | 33.3% |
| | - More than 46 | 84 | 32.6% |
| Academic Major (Bachelor's degree) | Total | 258 | 100% |
| | - Physical Education | 171 | 66.3% |
| | - Sport Science | 30 | 11.6% |
| | - Health Education | 8 | 3.1% |
| | - Elementary Education | 11 | 4.3% |
| | - Other | 38 | 14.7% |
| Teaching Experience | Total | 258 | 100% |
| | - Less than 2 years | 34 | 13.2% |
| | - 3 to 6 years | 40 | 15.5% |
| | - 7 to 10 years | 53 | 20.5% |
| | - 11 to 14 years | 40 | 15.5% |
| | - More than 15 years | 91 | 35.3% |

Results

Assessment of Measure Model

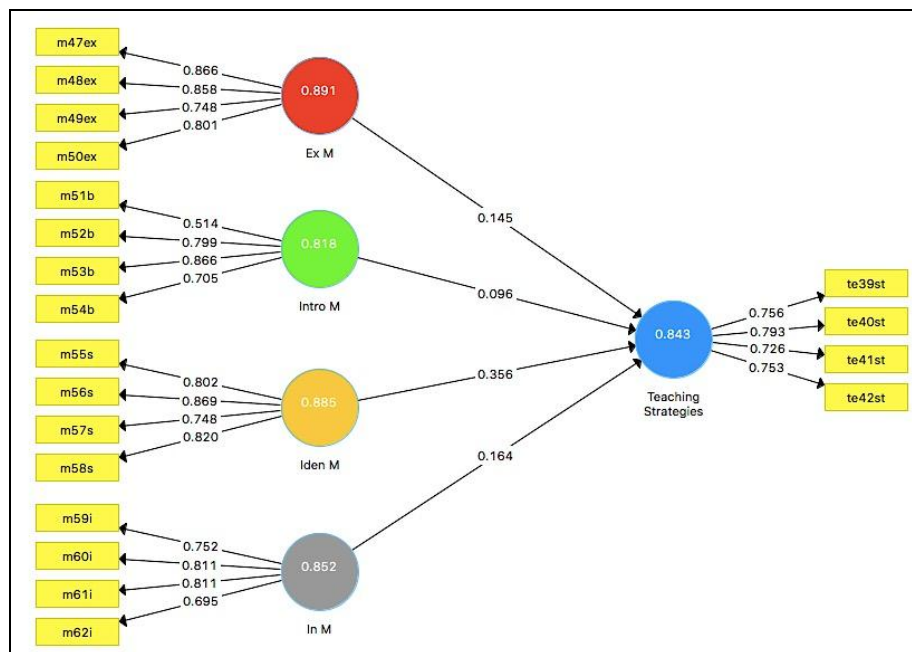


Figure 1 Measurement model using PLS-SEM algorithm.

Model 1

Assessment Model Analysis Result

Figure 1 demonstrates the results of the analyzed data in assessment model. In terms of the evaluated data based on the measurement model, there are four processes to assess, namely internal consistency reliability, reliability of indicators based on external loading values, ascertaining convergent validity, and discriminant validity.

Table 2 Summary of Standardized Loading, Composite Reliability (CR), and Average Variance Extracted (AVE)

| Construct | Composite Reliability | Average Variance Extracted (AVE) | Convergent validity |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ex M | 0.891 | 0.672 | Yes |
| Intro M | 0.818 | 0.537 | Yes |
| Iden M | 0.885 | 0.658 | Yes |
| In M | 0.852 | 0.591 | Yes |
| Teaching Strategies | 0.843 | 0.574 | Yes |



Table 2 shows the results of the measurement model. The composite reliability values for the four constructs were at 0.843 to 0.891. Hair et al. (2017) stated that composite reliability value should be more than 0.7. The AVE values were 0.537 to 0.672, which is in line with the range recommended by Hair et al. (2017) for AVE, that it should be at least 0.5 for each variable to be sufficient. Thus, all the results indicate that the model in this study has achieved the required criteria.

Table 3 The Fornell-Larcker Criterion Analysis for Checking Discriminant Validity of First-order Constructs

| | Ex M | I den M | In M | Intro M | Teaching Strategies |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Ex M | 0.820 | | | | |
| I den M | -0.002 | 0.811 | | | |
| In M | 0.110 | 0.544 | 0.769 | | |
| Intro M | 0.235 | 0.504 | 0.387 | 0.733 | |
| Teaching Strategies | 0.185 | 0.493 | 0.411 | 0.373 | 0.757 |

AVE > r² (Hair et al., 2017)

Table 3 demonstrates the Fornell-Larcker's measure. The AVE square root values in the first order constructs should be more than the correlations among all the other variables (Fornell & Larcker, 1981), which is evident through the results that found the value of AVE which is greater than the value of all the constructs below it.

Table 4 The Heterotrait Monotrait (HTMT) Criterion for Discriminant Validity

| | Ex M | I den M | In M | Intro M | Teaching Strategies |
|---------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|---------------------|
| Ex M | | | | | |
| I den M | 0.096 | | | | |
| In M | 0.139 | 0.679 | | | |
| Intro M | 0.370 | 0.622 | 0.518 | | |
| Teaching Strategies | 0.200 | 0.610 | 0.540 | 0.487 | |

HTMT < 0.85 (Henseler, Ringle & Sarstedt, 2015)

The table 4 shows the Heterotrait Monotrait criterion of correlation (HTMT). Henseler et al. (2015) stated that the HTMT value of correlation should not be more than 0.85. In this study, the HTMT values are less than 0.85.

Structural Model Assessment

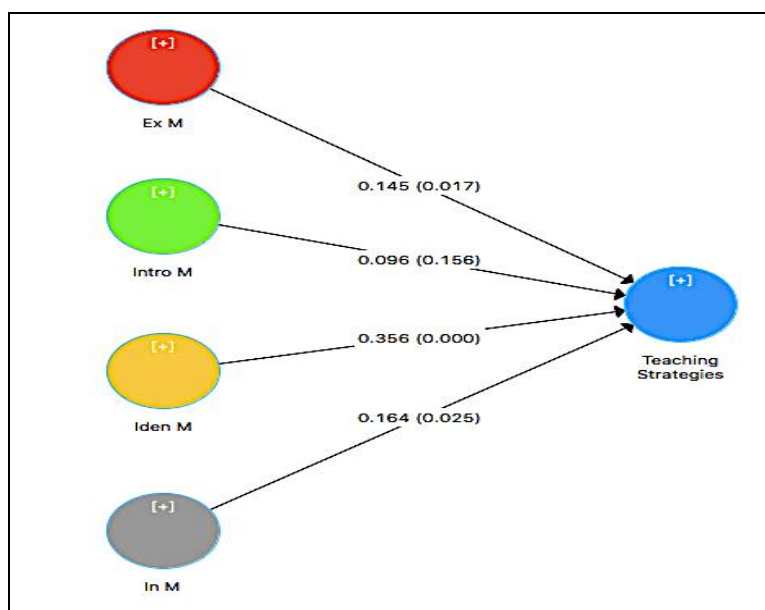


Figure 2 Structure model using PLS-SEM bootstrapping procedures.

Table 5 Assessment of Significant Relationship in First Order Structural Model

| Hypothesis | Relationship | Std. Beta (β) | T Values | P Values | Finding |
|------------|---|-----------------------|----------|----------|------------------|
| Ho 1 | Ex M \rightarrow Teaching Strategies | 0.145 | 2.774 | 0.017 | *Significance |
| Ho 2 | Intro M \rightarrow Teaching Strategies | 0.096 | 1.517 | 0.156 | Not Significance |
| Ho 3 | Iden M \rightarrow Teaching Strategies | 0.356 | 5.070 | 0.001 | *Significance |
| Ho 4 | In M \rightarrow Teaching Strategies | 0.164 | 2.320 | 0.025 | *Significance |

Note: * Significance at $P < 0.05$ (2-tailed)

Table 5 illustrates hypothesis assessment using bootstrapping PLS-SEM. The results show that there is a significant relationship between external motivation (Ex M) and teaching strategies ($\beta = 0.145$, $T = 2.774$, $P < 0.05$) and identified motivation (Iden M) and teaching strategies ($\beta = 0.356$, $T = 5.070$, $P < 0.05$), and intrinsic motivation (In M) and teaching strategies ($\beta = 0.164$, $T = 2.320$, $P < 0.05$). Meanwhile, there is no significant relationship between introjected motivation (Intro M) and teaching strategies ($\beta = 0.096$, $T = 1.517$, $P > 0.05$). Therefore, hypotheses 1, 3, and 4 are significant. On the other hand, hypothesis 2 is not significant.



Conclusion and Discussion

The findings confirm that there is a significant relationship between teacher motivation and teaching strategies among primary school teachers in Southern Thailand. The results show that the dimensions of external, identified, and intrinsic motivation have significant relationship with teaching strategies among primary school teachers in Southern Thailand. This is because most of the respondents graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical education (66.3%) and sports science (11.6%).

According to Guajardo (2011), teaching the topic that they are expert in can increase the motivation of the teacher. This is to say, in order to enhance teacher motivation, teachers should be teaching the class which suits their character and in which they are expert (Malouff, Rooke, Schutte, Foster, & Bhullar, 2008). Additionally, Ko (2016) argues that instructors who are expert in their subject are able to impart sufficient knowledge to students. The findings of the present study are consistent with that of Butler and Shibaz (2014); Han, Yin and Wang (2015); Hanson (2011), in that teacher incentive is also correlated with teaching approaches, effective teaching, quality, and students' achievement. Similarly, Tulyakul et al. (2018) found that there is a positive relationship between teacher motivation and teaching effectiveness because if PE teachers had suitable motivation for teaching, it influences positive teaching.

For Hein, Ries, Pires, Caune, Ekler, Emeljanovas, and Valantiniene (2012), internally motivated teachers tend to use more creative teaching designs. Bieg, Backes and Mittag (2011) argue that internally motivated teachers involved in the teaching and learning processes encourage their students. In addition, Mkumbo (2011) stated that interest and desire to help others motivate teachers to be more effective. This is similar to the result of Perlman (2013) who found that motivation toward teaching can be a main construct for the increase of effective teachers. Thus, the school directors or administrators should support their instructors for increased job satisfaction or provide rewards such as extra money and boost their morale.

However, the current study also found that there is no significant relationship between introjected motivation and teaching strategies among primary school teachers in Southern Thailand. Perhaps, this is because the study involved more male than female PE teachers (see table 1). According to Fakhr, Malhan, & Siedaly (2016), the gender of the teacher has an impact on student achievement and teaching approach. Introjected motivation refers to the time when teachers feel guilty, worried, or ashamed when they are teaching. (Anderson, 2016). As a result, the respondents are not worried or ashamed when they are teaching. Instead, the respondents feel happy and have fun in creating new teaching methods in their class. Hence, effective teaching can help

increase teacher motivation. This is because high motivation has a direct influence on teaching effectiveness and is able to increase student achievement (Christopher, 2013).

Even though this study found that there is no significant relationship between introjected motivation and teaching strategies, but should enhance all the other dimensions of teacher motivation. Hence, this study can be helpful for physical education teachers to understand better the methods for increasing teacher motivation in order to improve and develop their teaching strategies. Finally, future research should take into account a greater number of respondents and cover other parts of Thailand so that the results of the study will be more informative. Moreover, the next research should employ mixed methods and include interviews to collect data from teachers in relation to other information such as school budget, school management policy, and job satisfaction.

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