

Turkish parents' views about male preschool teachers

Dr. Ramazan Sak, Dr. İkbal Tuba Şahin-Sak (2016)

Aim: Preschool teaching is generally accepted as a job for women (Mills, Martino & Lingard, 2004) but the number of male preschool teachers has increased recently (Sak, Şahin & Şahin, 2012). When their interactions and cooperation are considered, this increase is especially important for parents. For instance, male preschool teachers may encourage fathers to be more active in educational processes and help mother in being an important partner (Elicker, 2002). Therefore, this study aims to examine Turkish parents' views about male preschool teachers.

Method: Sample of the study consisted of 312 parents from Van, Turkey (174 mothers and 138 fathers). 159 parents' children had a male preschool teacher and 153 parents' children's teachers were female. Data was collected with a "Parents questionnaire 'Men in ECEC'" originally developed in the context of an Austrian research project in 2008 (Aigner & Rohrmann, 2012).

Main findings:

- ✓ There was a significant difference between parents whose children's teachers were male ($\bar{x}=2.69$, $SD=0.864$) and parents whose children's teachers were female ($\bar{x}=2.22$, $SD=0.734$) about giving their children to a male kindergarten teacher (again).
- ✓ There was a significant difference between parents whose children's teachers were male ($\bar{x}=2.92$, $SD=0.993$) and parents whose children's teachers were female ($\bar{x}=2.48$, $SD=0.981$) about that there should be more educated male workers.
- ✓ There was *no* significant difference between parents whose children's teachers were male ($\bar{x}=2.41$, $SD=0.922$) and parents whose children's teachers were female ($\bar{x}=2.41$, $SD=0.823$) about that there should be more men in ECEC because they were especially important boys.
- ✓ 83% of parents whose children's teachers were male and 71.9 % of parents whose children's were female did *not* agree that the profession isn't attractive for men because the vocational training doesn't fit to men.
- ✓ 79.9 % of parents whose children's teachers were male and 77.8 % of parents whose children's were female did *not* agree that the profession isn't attractive for men because it is not possible to connect male attributes to a job in ECEC.
- ✓ 83.6 % of parents whose children's teachers were male and 73.9 % of parents whose children's teachers were female did *not* agree that the profession isn't attractive for men because parents don't want male teachers.

References

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Author correspondence: ramazan.sak@hotmail.com

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Introduction

- Preschool teaching is generally accepted as a job for women (Mills, Martino & Lingard, 2004)
- but the number of male preschool teachers has increased recently (Sak, Şahin & Şahin, 2012). When their interactions and cooperation are considered, this increase is especially important for parents.
- For instance, male preschool teachers may encourage fathers to be more active in educational processes and help mother in being an important partner (Elicker, 2002). Therefore, this study aims to examine Turkish parents' views about male preschool teachers.

Current number of Male Preschool Teachers in Turkey

Gender	n	%
Women	68357	94.64
Men	3871	5.36
Total	72228	100

Method-Participants

Gender	n	%
Women	174	55.8
Men	138	44.2
Total	312	100

- Sample of the study consisted of 312 parents from Van, Turkey (174 mothers and 138 fathers).
- 159 parents' children had a male preschool teacher and 153 parents' children's teachers were female.

Method-Data Collection Tool

- Data was collected with a “Parents questionnaire ‘Men in ECEC’” originally developed in the context of an Austrian research project in 2008 (Aigner & Rohrmann, 2012).

Findings

- There was a significant difference between parents whose children's teachers were male ($\bar{x}= 2.69$, $SD= 0.864$) and parents whose children's teachers were female ($\bar{x}= 2.22$, $SD= 0.734$) about **giving their children to a male kindergarten teacher (again)**.
- There was a significant difference between parents whose children's teachers were male ($\bar{x}= 2.92$, $SD= 0.993$) and parents whose children's teachers were female ($\bar{x}= 2.48$, $SD= 0.981$) about that **there should be more educated male workers**.

Findings

- What are your thoughts about having a man taking care for your child in kindergarten?

	Parents	n	\bar{x}	SD	t	p
I appreciate this possibility	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	3.02	.750	6.641	.000
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.41	.862		
I'm looking forward to this situation	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	2.65	.819	5.822	.000
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.13	.767		
I'm relaxed in regard of this situation	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	3.07	.880	5.822	.000
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.48	.897		

Findings

- Why should there be more men in ECEC?

	Parents	n	\bar{x}	SD	t	p
Because men are also important for girls	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	2.58	.874	2.725	.007
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.33	.751		
Because children should see that men and women have similar competences when they work with children	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	3.04	.787	3.312	.001
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.75	.737		
Because men have a different approach to children	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	2.55	.809	2.555	.011
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.32	.758		

Findings

What do you think, which tasks and activities shall a man do in kindergarten/preschool?

	Parents	n	\bar{x}	SD	t	p
He should especially focus on handicrafts, physical education and sports.	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	2.96	.782	2.196	.029
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.78	.641		
He should also take care for emotional needs (comforting children, taking them on his lap)	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	3.21	.741	2.761	.006
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.97	.794		

- What do you think: what is the relevance of workers'/teachers' gender for children?

	Parents	n	\bar{x}	SD	t	p
Children up to three should be cared for by women	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	2.65	1.001	-2.195	.029
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.88	.822		
Girls need male caregivers/attachment figures	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	2.29	.814	2.499	.013
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.07	.717		
Male caregivers/attachment figures are especially important for children of single mothers	Parents whose children's teachers were Male	159	2.23	.920	2.009	.045
	Parents whose children's teachers were Female	153	2.03	.773		

Findings

- There was *no* significant difference between parents whose children's teachers were male (\bar{x} = 2.41, SD= 0.922) and parents whose children's teachers were female (\bar{x} = 2.41, SD=0.823) about that **there should be more men in ECEC because they were especially important boys.**

Findings

- 83% of parents whose children's teachers were male and 71.9 % of parents whose children's teachers were female did *not* agree that **the profession isn't attractive for men because the vocational training doesn't fit to men.**
- 79.9 % of parents whose children's teachers were male and 77.8 % of parents whose children's were female did *not* agree that **the profession isn't attractive for men because it is not possible to connect male attributes to a job in ECEC.**

Findings

- 83.6 % of parents whose children's teachers were male and 73.9 % of parents whose children's teachers were female did *not* agree that **the profession isn't attractive for men because parents don't want male teachers.**



THANK YOU