

Executive Summary

Conflict Management Competency and Perceived Social Support of Prospective Secondary School Teachers

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Conflict management competency is one of the core competencies of teachers. The support from family, friends, peers, classmates, teachers, neighbours and significant others is essential for successful preparation of teachers. The rich social support may enhance the conflict management competency. The study is stated as conflict management competency and perceived social support of prospective secondary school teachers. The present study is conducted on a representative sample of 500 B.Ed Students selected from various teacher education institutions of different Districts of Kerala. Conflict management competency inventory and scale of perceived social support were used to find out the conflict management competency and perceived social support. The tools were developed and standardized by the investigator. Study reveals that the student teachers possess only a moderate level of the conflict management competency and average level of perceived social support. There exists significant difference between male and female, rural and urban, government and aided, government and unaided, and aided and unaided student teachers in their conflict management competency. There is a difference between male and female, rural and urban, government and unaided, and aided and unaided student teachers in their perceived social support. There is no difference in the perceived social support between government and aided student teachers. There exists significant and high positive relationship between the conflict management competency and perceived social support in the total sample and the relevant subsamples based on gender, locale and type of management.

In short, conflict management competency is essential for teachers. So it should be enhanced by providing the rich social support especially from family, teachers, peers, and classmates. Students teachers' ability to manage conflicts and practical abilities to resolve conflicts must be nurtured in the teacher education institutions. Special emphasis must be given to modify the curriculum and teaching and training methods to develop these abilities. The recent studies mentioned the importance of social support for the well being of the students. The study also highlights the scope of further research in the area.