

Student Teachers' Reasons for Choosing Teaching as a Career: A Case Study of First Year Students from a Rural University

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KEYWORDS Career Choice. Teaching. Pre-service Teacher Education. Student Teachers

ABSTRACT Teaching is an important profession as it affords students to develop knowledge before joining the world of work. The present paper sought to gather student teachers' reasons of why they chose teaching as a career and implications of the findings on the enhancement of teacher preparation programmes. The study adopted a qualitative case study design in which a purposeful sample of 50 first year B. Ed Foundation Phase students teachers participated. Open ended questionnaires were used as the main and sole data collection tool. Content analysis was used to analyse data thematically after coding. The study found that student teachers reasons for choosing teaching as a career were both positive and negative. There were gaps that emerged from the questionnaire that needed to be addressed. In some instances they felt excited to teach and improved on practice over time. The study concluded that there were challenges in student teachers staying longer in the teaching profession. Recommendations were made.