

The Effect of Kindergarten Teacher Coaching on Handicraft Skills to Improve Implemented Technical Products: An Approach to Tackle Unemployment

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ABSTRACT Handicrafts contribute significantly to sustainable socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation in local communities, by creating substantial employment and income opportunities for people. The aim was to investigate the effect of kindergarten teacher coaching on handicraft skills to improve implemented technical products. Participants were 20 unemployed female kindergarten teachers. They aged from 22-29 years old ($M= 25$ years, $SD= 3.52$). This study utilised a Quasi-Experimental (Pre-Test and Post-Test), one group design. Data were collected from children during the academic year 2019-2020. Data were analysed using t-test, ANOVA test, and Eta Squared. The group participated in 10 workshops, in which they were trained in doing textile design printing, forming ceramic pastes and synthesis with environmental materials. The results show there is a significant difference between the group's performance before and after the program. This confirms that the handicrafts could positively impact kindergarten teachers' textile design printing, forming ceramic pastes and synthesis with environmental materials. At the end of the study, recommendations were provided.

INTRODUCTION

Handicrafts are unique expressions of a particular culture or community through local craftsmanship and materials. Handicraft is largely environment-friendly. It can be a player of the country's economy and significant tool for tackling unemployment (Jahangir and Pushpender 2017). The "Factory model" of education may have been adequate for 20th century industrial economies, where a foundation of basic skills in literacy, numeracy, and other core subjects allowed students to enter the bottom rungs of the job market (Joseph et al. 2020). Through a handicraft cooperative membership, crafters are able to access livelihood assets, mostly the economic, social and human capital (Oluwayemisi and Ian 2016). There is a particular emphasis on the promotion of youth employment creation through non-farm micro-enterprise development, for instance, the support for traditional craft apprenticeship schemes. Handicrafts have proved to be a sustainable generator of income and employment. In order to readily fit into the global market on which today's economy depends, there is a need for technical and vocational manpower training, particularly at

the craft. As an essential component of culture, the crafts can be an important catalyst for indigenous business development (Oluwayemisi and Ian 2016). The problem of unemployment is an economic phenomenon that began to appear tangibly with the prosperity of industry, as unemployment had no meaning in traditional rural societies. According to the International Labour Organisation, an unemployed person is anyone who is able and willing to work, searches for work, and accepts work at the level of the prevailing wage, but to no avail. Through this definition it becomes clear that not everyone who does not work is unemployed. Pupils, the handicapped, the elderly, retired people, and those who have lost hope in finding work, temporary employers, and those who need work are not considered unemployed (Blustein et al. 2020).

Hence, unemployment is one of the most severe obstacles to progress and development in society, which threatens its security, stability, safety and cohesion, and leads to a reduction in the standard of living and an increase in the poverty rate. Unemployment has become a global crisis that rarely exists in a country that does not suffer from its woes. Faced by various countries

of the world, developed and developing alike (Kalleberg 2009).

The issue of unemployment at the present time receives great attention at the global and local levels, as it is a fundamental problem and a global phenomenon that no society is without. Unemployment, according to Socrates, is the basis of corruption because it dulls the mind and weakens health, and in this regard, the countries of the world, whether developed or developing, face this problem regardless of their levels of progress and however their social, economic and political systems differ (Wanberg 2012).

Unemployment deepens the feeling of the unemployed, frustration, depression and sadness over the years of his life spent in education to no avail, and it also makes a person lose his self-esteem, lowers his self-esteem and feels upset and inferior, as well as depriving the individual from achieving his social status and worsening his relationship with others (Waters and Moore 2002). Unemployment results in feelings of anxiety, alienation, deprivation, dissatisfaction, irritability, loss of hope for the future and increased psychological pressure (Wanberg 2012). In addition to this, rebellion, protest, violence or aggressive behaviour in its various forms of crimes such as drug use, theft, murder, rape and sabotage of others' property, is reflected. The negative impact of unemployment is on the mental health of the unemployed and impedes his psychological compatibility (Blustein et al. 2020).

If one goes back to the roles that the teacher performs, and the tasks that she does for children, to realise that her job is not limited to education, but rather she is a nanny in the first place, and the influence of a kindergarten teacher on children does not depend on her skills and mastery of scientific subjects only, but also on her attitudes, values, beliefs, personal inclinations, and the ideal (Paul and Moser 2009).

The kindergarten teacher is the one who is entrusted with achieving the goals of education in kindergarten. The focus of the teacher's work in the kindergarten is the child, and with what she carries of personal, practical, and cultural components she is considered the main factor influencing the raising of the child inside the kindergarten, and this effect is not related to her technical skills only, but it is related. Likewise, with the attitudes, values, feelings and habits they bear,

they are reflected in her thoughts and behaviours, which are quickly transferred to the child as a role model and model they imitate, and they may assume her character in their behaviour (Ferreira et al. 2015).

Offering coaching on handicraft skills is likely to be among the required high-quality professional development for all employees (Mahgoub and Alsoud 2015). Kindergarten teachers are not an exception. This and other learning opportunities are among the most important and long-standing challenges faced by the state institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Kindergarten teachers are in need of deliberate practice that promotes continuous improvement to master a complex skill. Coaching is an essential component of an effective professional development program. By providing job opportunities for those who want them without burdening the administrative apparatus, by pushing job seekers to take the initiative themselves and individual planning, each according to his situation, to work for his benefit. In a vigorous effort to confront the economic and social impacts that afflict societies as a result of high unemployment rates and the widening circle of poverty, which creates a problem that afflicts the productive base in society and a large segment of the unemployed work to push them towards building their own projects to turn into a productive force.

Art helps to give people self-identity (Yalçın and Ruken 2016). In order for a person to call himself an artist, he must play a leadership role not only in the production of works of art, but also to the production of artworks supported by ideas and philosophies that help to upgrade and elevate people's lives. In light of the developments, education programs seek to link the university's goals to serving the community and the surrounding environment. It also seeks to open areas of development for university graduates to work in small projects that have economic goals in the labour market (Duffy et al. 2016).

Textile Design Printing Techniques

The field of hand textile printing is one of the most exciting branches of art, as it combines multiple concepts and techniques, whether in terms of its value, artistic originality, and its superior ability to form visual images with all its technical

and aesthetic values, and the many methods contained in this field, each with its unique broad plastic capabilities, through which it allows the continuous experimental practice of the proposed technologies, through creative technical expertise. The experimental practice in the field of textile printing is considered one of the important modern intellectual trends that researchers have always looked to in this field, as technology is no longer fixed, but rather that the hand of renewal is always working to bring about changes that keep pace with development and are commensurate with the requirements of the age, either with the help of new plastic formulas, modern technical treatments, or by using synthetic media that it can create by combining traditional treatments, materials and modern treatments, the diversity between different artistic expression methods resulting from the diversity of methods and styles and by developing the same printing techniques or by combining printing methods in one work or by developing new performance methods for the tools and materials used, which leads to establish the artistic originality of the printed artwork (Elegbede et al. 2020).

Forming Ceramic Pastes

Ceramic paste is considered one of the materials that suit all artistic works, as it is a craft paste used in moulding, which is a smooth paste, and is coloured with special colours (Dean 2000). Usually they are used to create flowers and some small figures, or to make decorations for the frames of some paintings hanging on the walls. It can be used to make models for easy formation of precise parts, as it is one of the best pastes that can be used in that. It has many multiple uses. But one should avoid using these pots made of ceramic paste in cooking, because they contain a lot of chemicals that are harmful to humans, and one can colour the paste before one forms it, either with gouache colours, bright watercolour, or glass colours that are diluted with water or ceramic colours (Jonathan et al. 2013), which can be left white as it is then one colours it after shaping until the artwork dries.

Synthesis with Environmental Materials

Synthesis is used in modern arts in the sense of reconciling more than one material in a single

work of art. So that the collected materials enrich the artistic work itself, as it is known as an art intended to use materials that are proportional to each other, where they are reconciled in a single work of art in which the aesthetic and functional harmony of these materials is complete.

Problem Statement

Some believe that university education in the Kingdom still suffers from deficiencies that prevent the fulfilment of developmental needs, and he attributed this to several reasons, the most important of which are the use of traditional teaching methods in universities, where reliance is placed on filling the minds with knowledge and dense information, and neglecting those specific skills aimed at developing creative thinking. The other reason is the incorrect response by universities to the social demand for university education, as the number of students exceeded their capabilities, thus their programs were affected and their efficiency and productivity decreased in the field of scientific research.

As for the suitability of university education to the labour market, it was found that there is no reciprocal relationship between the university education sector on the one hand and the business sector on the other hand, which forces each of them to open up to the other and cooperate with him, and this requires the adoption of effective measures to strengthen the relationship between the two parties to ensure the success of each of them in achieving its goals (Nouaceur 2000).

Also, the reality of the scientific skills available to university graduates and the reality of communication between universities and the labour market in its public and private Saudi sectors lies in the skills available to graduates do not correspond to the nature of the jobs provided by employers in the public and private sectors. Recruitment is not efficient enough. University graduates need retraining to be able to do the jobs offered to them (Blustein 2019).

Aim of the Study

The aim of the study was to investigate the effect of kindergarten teachers' coaching on handicraft skills to improve implemented technical products with the hope to tackle unemployment.

Significance

In order for the kindergarten teacher to be able to fulfil their roles to the fullest and to shoulder their responsibilities well, they need many basic personal, social and teaching competencies, and the process of preparing and forming them has become based on planning based on scientific and sound foundations, and her rehabilitation has become one of the most important educational tasks that have become an important requirement to achieve the quality of education (Gündogdu et al. 2019) at this stage, because no matter how good the kindergarten curriculum, and the tools and means of implementing it are available, this will not work unless he or she is a well-qualified teacher who understands the tasks of their profession and can compensate for the shortcomings in the curriculum, so that they can achieve the educational goals of the kindergarten. The selection, preparation and training of a kindergarten teacher is one of the most important factors that help a kindergarten to achieve its goals (Trivette et al. 2012). Many educators believe that developing the performance of a kindergarten teacher begins with their love for children and their desire to work in kindergarten, and ends with preparing them professionally so that they can possess personal, social and teaching competencies (Malgorzata and Karczmarzyk 2018) that help achieve the goals of early childhood education (Tzuo et al. 2013). The main reason for the importance of this study is the call for researchers to consider handicrafts in their research .

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are tested in this study:

H1: There are significant differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of textile design printing in favour of post-test.

H2: There are significant differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of forming ceramic pastes in favour of post-test.

H3: There are significant differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of synthesis with environmental materials in favour of post-test.

METHODOLOGY

This study seeks to answer the question, what is the effect of kindergarten teachers coaching on handicraft skills to improve implemented technical products? Data were collected from children during the academic year 2019-2020. Data was analysed using t-test, ANOVA test, and Eta Squared.

Questionnaire

The Professional Evaluation of Technical Products as Small Enterprises Survey was developed particularly for this study. It is a three-sub-scale survey for textile design printing, forming ceramic pastes and synthesis with environmental materials. The scoring of the survey utilised a ten scale rubric to understand new and original product idea, the size is proportional to the utilitarian function of the product, the colours are harmonious and attractive to the viewer, the technical output is elaborate, easy and simple to use, use work safe, make a general impression of beauty, product needed by the labour market, the economic cost is appropriate, and stirring joy in self when watched and used (see Figs. 1-3, for sample of the products to be evaluated). It is a three-point Likert scale (yes (3), somehow (2), no (0) with content validity = .89). For reliability, the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient is 0.88.

Study Group and Procedure

Participants were 20 unemployed female kindergarten teachers. They aged from 22-29 years old ($M = 25$ years, $SD = 3.52$). All of them were from Turaif, which is a town in the Northern Borders Province (also known as Al-Hudud ash Shamaliyah). They were all graduates of Early Childhood College. They were not appointed to public schools, or in private kindergartens. They were asked to do some samples of textile design printing, forming ceramic pastes and synthesis with environmental materials (pre-test). Then the same group participated in 10 workshops, in which they were trained in doing textile design printing, forming ceramic pastes and synthesis with environmental materials. At the end of the tenth workshop, their products were evaluated again (post-test).

Research Model

This study utilised a Quasi-Experimental (Pre-Test and Post-Test), one group design.

Data Analysis

Data were analysed with pre-test and post-test measurements of one group.

RESULTS

To verify the first hypothesis that states, “There are significant differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of textile design printing in favour of post-test”, the researcher used t-test, ANOVA test, and Eta Squared. As shown in Table 1, T value was 16.62 (p. value <0.001). As for Table 2, F was 39=276.278 and p-value <0.001. Concerning Table 3, Eta Squared is .879. The three tables show that there are significant differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of textile design printing in favour of post-test.

Table 1: t-test results for the differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of textile design printing

Measurement	N	Mean	Std. deviation	t	Sig.
Pre	20	26.55	1.66	16.62	.000
Post	20	15.05	2.60		

Source: Author

Table 2: ANOVA table in quality of textile design printing

		Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Printing * Group	Between groups (combined)	1322.500	1	1322.500	276.278	.000
	Within groups	181.900	38	4.787		
	Total	1504.400	39			

Table 5: ANOVA table in quality of forming ceramic pastes

		Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Printing * Group	Between groups (combined)	525.625	1	525.625	98.807	.000
	Within groups	202.150	38	5.320		
	Total	727.775	39			

Table 3: Measures of association

	Eta	Eta Squared
Printing * Group	.938	.879

To verify the second hypothesis, which states, “There are significant differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of forming ceramic pastes in favour of post-test”, the researcher used t-test, ANOVA test, and Eta Squared. As shown in Table 4, T value was 9.94 (p-value <0.001). As for Table 5, F was 39=98.807 and p-value <0.001. Concerning Table 6, Eta Squared is .722. The three tables show that there are significant differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of forming ceramic pastes in favour of post-test.

Table 4: t-test results for the differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of forming ceramic pastes

Measurement	N	Mean	Std. deviation	t	Sig.
Pre	20	24.05	2.08	9.94	.000
Post	20	16.80	2.50		

Table 6: Measures of association

	Eta	Eta squared
Printing * Group	.850	.722

To verify the third hypothesis, which states, “There are significant differences between pre-

post test scores of the treatment group in quality of synthesis with environmental materials in favour of post-test", the researcher used t-test, ANOVA test, and Eta Squared. As shown in Table 7, T value was 25.27 (p-value <0.001). As for Table 8, F is 39=638.745 and p-value <0.001. Concerning Table 9, Eta Squared is .944. The three tables show that there are significant differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of synthesis with environmental materials in favour of post-test.

Table 7: t-test results for the differences between pre-post test scores of the treatment group in quality of synthesis with environmental materials

Measurement	N	Mean	Std. deviation	t	Sig.
Pre	20	27.25	1.11	25.27	.000
Post	20	16.50	5.58		

Table 9: Measures of association

	Eta	Eta squared
Printing* Group	.972	.944

DISCUSSION

Employment is the backbone of development and failure of providing meaningful employment is the catastrophic development failure of a country. Taking into consideration the problem that this study dealt with and sought to resolve, training kindergarten teachers in handicraft skills could help them improve implemented technical products.

The aim was to investigate the effect of kindergarten teachers coaching on handicraft skills to improve implemented technical products. The researchers noted that before the implementation of the handicraft skills program, the kindergarten

teachers were not that good at textile design printing, forming ceramic pastes and synthesis with environmental materials. However, the results show there is a significant difference between the group's performance before and after the program. This confirms that the handicrafts could positively impact kindergarten teachers' textile design printing, forming ceramic pastes and synthesis with environmental materials.

From here, the role of linking education and training to small enterprises has emerged in achieving comprehensive development for its contribution to attracting large numbers of manpower and overcoming the phenomenon of unemployment and representing a mechanism to raise income to benefit from providing a new source of income for them (Gerfin et al. 2005). Therefore, the initiative of spreading small enterprises has gained great popularity after the tremendous progress that it has made in the past period, as it has become one of the alternative economic plans as a method of work aimed at providing job opportunities for those who wish (Cohen-Scali et al. 2018). By pushing the future to work towards taking the initiative in itself and planning separately according to one's situation to work for one's benefit to face the economic and social challenges that afflict societies due to high unemployment rates and the desire to limit the expansion of the unemployed segment to push them to turn into a productive force as well as satisfy the psychological side of the individual, which raises the level of ambitions.

Although small enterprises are characterised by insignificant volume of investments (Allen et al. 2013), they are among the most effective mechanisms in diversifying and expanding the base of products and industries, coinciding with the current period with the state's encouragement of small enterprises (Tarfasa et al. 2016) and the radical developments they are currently witnessing, and accelerating changes towards openness to

Table 8: ANOVA table in quality of synthesis with environmental materials

		Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Printing * Group	Between groups (combined)	1155.625	1	1155.625	638.745	.000
	Within groups	68.750	38	1.809		
	Total	1224.375	39			

all systems in their various educational and cultural dimensions in political, economic and social development, small institutions have received great development and great attention, as they are one of the most important means that drive economic development because they are distinguished by their rapid establishment and effective role in economic development (Debelo et al. 2015). The role of universities in serving society has been absent for a long time, and it has been linked only to its geographical location (Adnan 2019). It is difficult for any university to exist in isolation from society due to the problems it will face. Therefore, universities have adopted valid policies aimed at restructuring them to raise their competitiveness, as trust between society and the educational system has deteriorated as a result of the weak link between education and the requirements of the labour market.

CONCLUSION

Handicraft industries have a constructive economic value as well as cultural nature. Manual skills are an art and creativity that girls tend to generally like because they represent an opportunity for them to prove themselves and occupy leisure time, especially during the holidays. Manual skills contribute to expressing the talents of girls, especially as these skills require precision and innovation. It is also considered an opportunity to increase income and a job opportunity for those who take it as a craft for themselves. It also constitutes a distinct characteristic of peoples' heritage, especially with regard to handicrafts and the environment. Small and medium enterprises have a major and vital role in developing the economies of many countries of the world and developing their human and material resources, according to their needs and development goals, especially since many of the successful mega-projects existing today in most countries of the world were mainly individual ideas and small projects.

Small enterprises play a major role in facing the unemployment problem, as small industries use relatively simple productive techniques that are characterised by high labour intensity. They work to create job opportunities that absorb part of the unemployment and at the same time, work to curb the increasing demand for government jobs. This helps countries that suffer from abun-

dant work and scarcity of capital to face the problem of unemployment without incurring high capital costs, and these projects provide many job opportunities for some groups, especially females, youth and displaced people from rural areas who are not yet qualified to join the large enterprises and the organised sector in general.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended to give particular attention to coaching for handicraft skills to improve implemented technical products in order for kindergarten teachers to be able to meet the needs or requirements of the labour market. Moreover, this topic should be regarded as a main component to encourage further studies to develop different strategies in the field of handicrafts.

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