



Doctor of Education: Leadership, Learning and Community OR

Doctor of Education: Higher Education

An Examination of Trait Emotional Intelligence and Career Choice in International Teachers

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Introduction: The purpose of this study was to find out if there are any significant differences between trait emotional intelligence (trait EI) and career choice of international teachers. The study used a secondary dataset that was collected by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation Development (OECD) in 2018 from the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS).

Problem of Practice: Every year, 14.4% of teachers leave their positions internationally (Odland & Ruzicka, 2009), with this figure ranging from 16–20% annually in the US (Hanushek et al., 2004; Luekens, 2004).

Research Method: This study carried out an ex post facto causal-comparative study to determine if the independent variables in this study result in differences to appear in the dependent variables. The independent variables included employment region and number of years of teaching experience. The dependent variables were trait emotional intelligence (trait EI) and career choice. There were nearly 90,000 participants included in the study.

Summary of Findings: Study results showed that there is significant difference between trait EI and career choice of international teachers based on the employment region and years of experience. The results also showed that the presence of trait EI and career choice peak at the same time for teachers during the level of experience from 6 to 10 ten years. The study has implications for the recruitment of teachers, potentially identifying teacher leaders based on the peak period.

Limitation(s) of Study: The employment regions were not as robust as hoped for due to countries being omitted for incomplete data when the set was being cleaned. Additionally, the limited number of participants from Africa make it difficult to draw conclusions about the continent as a whole. An additional limitation was the researcher was not able to disaggregate.

Implications/Significance of Study: When looking to recruit teachers or find leaders that the highest levels of trait EI and career choice belief is strongest among teachers in experience level 6 – 10 years. School leaders should support the growth of trait EI and career choice of all teachers. School leaders should support the growth of trait EI and career choice of all teacher.

