

WOMEN TEACHERS FROM PRE-UNIVERSITY HAVING A SECOND JOB?

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ABSTRACT. Introduction: Although there are some areas favored by male teachers, teaching is considered in the literature and traditionally a female profession. According to the latest studies in Romania, the percentage of women pre-university teachers has increased by 4% in recent years. **Objectives:** The main variable of interest in this study was to have a second job among female pre-university teachers in Romania and how this indicator affects their lives, especially health and leisure. **Methodology:** Data collection was performed online using the quality-of-life questionnaire based on the European Quality of Life Surveys structure. Of the 206 women respondents, 78 said they had a second job. **Results:** Following the analysis of demographic data, the average age of teachers included in the current study was 40.5 years. 63% are married, 20% are unmarried and 13% say they are divorced. The health condition is perceived as good by 50% of our respondents, most of them being in the age category 20-44 years. Most subjects (74%) stated that they have a hobby, although, unfortunately, 35% of the respondents did not confirm the preferred type of hobby. **Conclusions:** Although they have a second job, the continuous desire for education is high, certified by the fact that 63% of respondents take courses. Only 14% practice physical activity, which leads us to believe that people who have a second job when they have little free time, prefer activities that do not involve physical effort. Even though they have a second job, in terms of financial situation, 73% said that their monthly income is insufficient, and they are dissatisfied with their remuneration.

Keywords: *female teachers, second job, quality of life, health*

REZUMAT. Ca profesoară în învățământul preuniversitar din România, poți avea un job secundar? Introducere: Deși există unele domenii favorizate de profesorii de gen masculin, predarea este considerată în literatura de specialitate și prin tradiție o meserie feminină. Conform ultimelor studii din România, procentul de femei cadre didactice din preuniversitar a crescut cu 4% în ultimii ani. **Obiective:** Principala variabilă de interes în acest studiu a fost

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aceea de a avea un al doilea loc de muncă în rândul profesorilor preuniversitari de gen feminin din România și modul în care acest indicator le afectează viața, în special sănătatea și timpul liber. **Metodologie:** Colectarea datelor a fost efectuată online utilizând chestionarul de calitatea vieții bazat pe structura European Quality of Life Surveys. Din cele 206 de femei respondente, 78 au declarat că au un al doilea loc de muncă. **Rezultate:** În urma analizei datelor demografice, vârsta medie a cadrelor didactice incluse în studiul actual a fost de 40,5 ani. 63%, sunt căsătoriți, 20% necăsătoriți și 13% au declarat că sunt divorțați. Starea de sănătate este percepută ca fiind bună de 50% dintre respondenții noștri, majoritatea acestora fiind în categoria de vârstă 20-44 de ani. Majoritatea subiecților (74%) au declarat că au un hobby, deși, din păcate, 35% dintre respondenți nu au confirmat tipul preferat de hobby. **Concluzii:** Deși au un al doilea loc de muncă, dorința continuă de educație este mare, certificată de faptul că 63 % dintre respondenți urmează cursuri. Doar 14% practică activitate fizică, ceea ce ne face să credem că persoanele care au un al doilea loc de muncă atunci când au puțin timp liber, preferă activități care nu implică efort fizic. Chiar dacă au un al doilea loc de muncă, în ceea ce privește situația financiară, 73% au declarat că veniturile lunare sunt insuficiente fiind nemulțumiți de remunerație.

***Cuvinte cheie:** profesoare, al doilea loc de muncă, calitatea vieții, sănătate*

INTRODUCTION

Education has always been a topic of interest from all points of view. In recent years, more and more studies are being conducted to observe the direction in which education is heading.

Human resource is of an uttermost importance in almost all fields of life, in the light of this statement the teacher is for the educational system a key element.

In the last decades we are witnessing a tendency towards female emancipation, fuelled by a desire to surpass themselves on all levels. However, when we talk about professions, it is known that some of them are feminine. (Gaskell and Mullen, 2006)

Although there are some fields favoured by male teachers, teaching is considered in the research literature and by tradition a feminine job. (Drudy 2008)

According to the latest studies in Romania, the percentage of women pre-university teachers has increased by 4 percent in the latest years. If in 2013 the percentage of women among pre-university teachers was 69%, by 2018 this percentage registered a statistically significant increase. Thus, this percentage became 73% in Romania. (TALIS, 2018)

Following a survey conducted by the Census Bureau from United States, almost 50% of the teachers interviewed declared that they have a second job, also the report states that women are more likely to have second jobs.

Due to financial pressures or the desire to practice a hobby many Romanians look for a second job as a way of living variant. (Precupețu I. et al., 2018)

In Romania, 1.36 million people have two or more ongoing employment contracts simultaneously, successively or with intersection periods in the reference interval. Of this, a number of approximately 420.000 people have two employment contracts simultaneously, which can translate into two jobs simultaneously, according to data provided by the Ministry of Labor.

From our current study almost 38% stated that they have a second job. Starting from this indicator and analyzing women teacher's quality of life we could outline a profile that could give us an inside view of the problems, aspiration's, health, expectations of this extremely important socio-professional category.

OBJECTIVE & RESEARCH IN THE FIELD

The data upon this study is based on comes from a more comprehensive research aimed at establishing the perceived level of own quality of life among pre-university teacher's nationwide.

The main variable of interest in this current study was having a second job among pre-university female teachers in Romania and how this indicator impacts their lives, especially health and leisure time.

When we talk about health the World Health Organization (WHO) defines it as a "state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

People's perception of their own health is influenced by a complex set of factors, including environmental, cultural, and socio-economic conditions.

According to a study conducted by INSSE 2016 in EU the self-health among women is likelihood perceived as good and very good, not surprisingly, this fact decreases by age. At European level 85.3% women between 16-44 years consider their health good and very good, 62.3% between 45-64 years and 36.3% the age category 65 and beyond, this tendency in perceiving self-health can be seen also in Romania where 94.0% of women aged between 16 and 44 who consider their health to be good or very good, 61.8% 45-64 years and 17.5% 65 years.

METHODOLOGY

Data collection was performed using a questionnaire covering all 12 areas of quality of life: health, employment, income, education, family, social participation, housing, environment, infrastructure, personal safety, leisure, and life satisfaction. Using European Quality of Life Surveys as a guide and starting point.

The questionnaire was administered online and has been disseminated through the following platforms: Google Forms and Facebook.

Out of 229 valid responses registered, we have extracted the 206 female respondents and further one we isolated the 78 ones that have declared that they have a second job.

The following demographics data were collected: age, gender, marital status, number of children, religion, ethnicity, county and type of locality in which they were born, county and type of locality in which they carry out their professional activity, the subject taught and the educational level in which they work.

RESULTS

Demographic data

Following the analysis of demographic data, the average age of the female teachers included in the current study was 40.5 years. The age intervals have an almost uniform distribution the highest percentage being registered in the age range 36-40 years with 20%, followed by the age interval 46-50 with 18%. Also, if we take into consideration the distribution based on county of teaching, 17% of the respondent are from Bucharest, followed by Cluj and Brasov with 9%, the other counties being distributed almost equally between 3-5%.

More than half of our respondents, 63%, are married, 20% unmarried, and 13% declared that are divorced. An interesting thing that has been noticed and could be related to having a second job is the number of respondents who said they are divorced 18 from 206 women respondents, 10 being in the group of those with a second job.

Educational domain

Although they have a second job, the continuing desire for education is high, as evidenced by an encouraging percentage of 63% of respondents who said they are taking courses to complete their education. Thus 19% of them follow different specialization courses, 15% a bachelor's degree, 49% master studies and 17% doctoral studies.

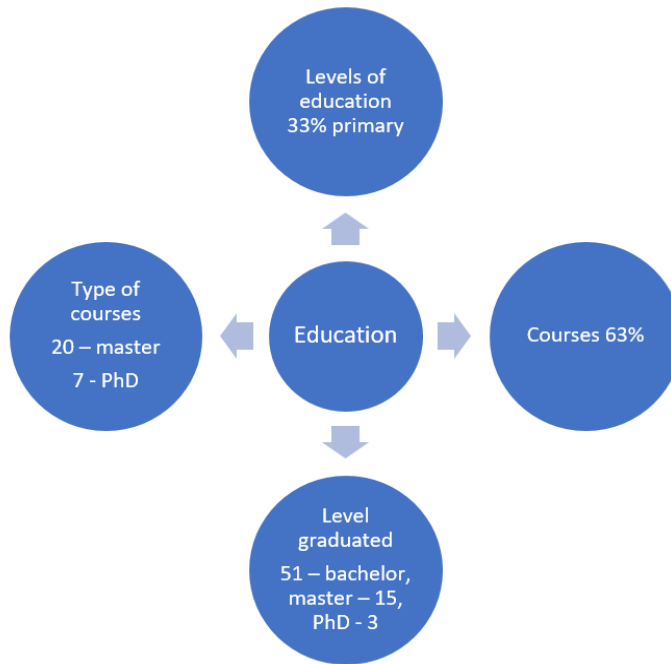


Figure 1. Highlights of respondents' education

The last educational cycles completed by our respondents are the following: 12 persons finished high school, 51 have one bachelor's degree, 1 has a second bachelor's degree, 15 have master's degrees and 3 PhD studies.

Health and life satisfaction

Self -health status is perceived by 50% of our respondents as good, most of them being in the age category 20-44 years. There is also a percentage of 31% declaring that their health is acceptable/fair which interfere with the level of happiness.

When we analyzed the health and life satisfaction domains, we identified a mismatch between the level of happiness declared by the respondents and the state of mind in the past 2 weeks. The level of happiness is quite high between 8 and 10 on a scale from 1 to 10, 1 being very unhappy and 10 very happy.

The question regarding their state of mind in the last two weeks was a Yes or No question in which 77% did not feel happy and optimistic nor calm and relaxed in the past two weeks, 73% of the respondent did not feel active and full of energy.

Which leads us to think that respondents fail to assess themselves correctly, there is no correlation between the general state of happiness on long-term and the satisfaction offered by life and happiness, optimism on short-term.

Leisure time and incomes

Most subjects (74%) stated that they have a hobby, although, unfortunately, 35% of the respondents did not confirm the preferred type of hobby. Of those who responded, 30% read as a hobby, 8% handmade and only 14% practice physical activity, which leads us to believe that people who have a second job when they have little free time, prefer activities that do not involve physical effort.

Of course, future studies are needed, but if we continue to assume, we can correlate the lack of physical activity as a hobby with the response of subjects in terms of perception of health, 31% declaring it acceptable. Concluding that the higher the level of physical activity, the better the perception of health.

The average of those who have spent their vacation in the last 5 years being 1 per year confirming the need to relax after a year of work.

When it comes to income and meeting everyday necessities even though they have a second job, 73% declared that the monthly incomes are insufficient, 40 %with some difficulties and 31% stated that the incomes meet their necessities with difficulties.

Following the responses received regarding jobs, work schedule and family commitments, 50% of respondents stated that they manage to cope well between work schedule and family commitments. Also, a relatively high percentage of 37% said they do not cope so well with family commitments. In this case, we can assume that having a second job involves more time spent at work and therefore a greater load of tasks that affect their family life.

CONCLUSION

Upon analyzing the data, we can certify that having a second job brings into the respondent's life positive aspects as well as negative ones. Although the willingness to assume heavier workloads can ensure an easier lifestyle, from an economical point of view it does not necessarily translate into experiencing a better quality of life.

In the following lines we briefly present the most relevant characteristics of the studied group.

Relative characteristics of our targeted group: mostly married (63%) with an average age of 40.5 years that teach at primary, secondary inferior and secondary superior levels in urban areas, the majority being from Bucharest 17%, followed by Cluj and Brasov with 9%.

Taking into consideration all 12 domains of quality of life we can draw a profile of female pre-university teachers stating that:

Although they have a second job, the continuous desire for education is high, certified by the fact that 63% of respondents take courses, 19% of them follow different specialization courses, 15% a bachelor's degree, 49% master studies and 17% doctoral studies.

When we analyzed the health and life satisfaction domains, we identified a mismatch between the level of happiness declared by the respondents and the state of mind in the past 2 weeks. Which leads us to think that respondents fail to assess themselves correctly, there is no correlation between the general state of happiness on long-term and the satisfaction offered by life and happiness, optimism on short-term.

A significant percentage of 74% stated that they have a hobby most of which consisting in reading, physical activities, traveling or handmade. Only 14% practice physical activity, which leads us to believe that people who have a second job when they have little free time, prefer activities that do not involve physical effort.

The balance between having a second job and family is largely uneven, 37% of the respondents affirmed that do not cope well with work schedule and family commitments. The problems related to long working hours on the one hand and family responsibilities that interfere with working life lead to difficulties in trying to have a harmonious life.

The relatively high percentage of more than half of respondents who own a property and a car without a loan comes as a confirmation of previous studies where this may be due to the privatization of social apartments in the 90's.

A few below 60% of the respondents have given a bribe in the last 12 months declaring in the same time that they do not trust in state institutions, this fact is quite sad because we consider that through education we can change the world. This vicious circle can be broken starting with education by changing the mentality that still comes from the communist regime.

Even though they have a second job, in terms of the financial situation, 73% declared that the monthly incomes are insufficient being dissatisfied with remuneration.

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