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NEWSLETTER

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## **Teacher Vitality and Positive Teacher-Student Relationships: A Study of Emotional Transmission between Teachers and Students**

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**T**HE INTERACTION between teachers and students has long been a vital research question among educational researchers. In recent years, incremental attention has been paid to the impact of positive psychological traits and emotions of teachers on teacher-student interactions. Drawing on the vitality theory, this study posited that the vitality of teachers contributed to enhancing students' vitality and fostering positive teacher-student relationships via the emotional transmission effect, particularly through students' perception of teacher enthusiasm. This hypothesis was empirically examined with a sample of 2,386 Chinese secondary school students and 76 head teachers.

### Research findings:

- After controlling for the gender and age of teacher and student participants, teacher vitality could significantly and positively predict students' perception of positive teacher-student relationships.
- After controlling for the gender and age of teacher and student participants, teacher vitality could indirectly impact students' perception of positive teacher-student relationships via the mediating effect of students' perception of teacher enthusiasm; the mediating effect of student vitality; and the chain mediating effect of students' perception of teacher enthusiasm and student vitality.

### Implications:

- The role of teacher vitality in boosting positive teacher-student relationships is realized through the emotional transmission between teachers and students.
- The teacher-student relationship, an integral part of classroom instruction, is interwoven into the whole processing of teaching and learning. Good teacher-student relationships substantially foster students' development of knowledge and character.
- Education administrators of all levels and school leaders should work to enhance the vitality of teachers and circumvent job

burnout in them by alleviating their work burdens and increasing their professional autonomy; by engaging them in curriculum management; and by optimizing their compensation as well as improving their physical and mental wellbeing.

- The encouragement of teacher and student vitality necessitates a vibrant school climate. It is necessary for the society to pay respect to the operation autonomy of the school, for the school administrators to pay respect to the professional autonomy of the teacher, and for teachers to pay respect to the student' autonomy in learning and development.

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