

PARTICIPATION AND PERCEPTION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

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Abstract: *This study investigated pre-service teachers' attitudes toward participation in and perception of community service programmes. One hundred and fifty-four students were administered a structured questionnaire tagged Community Service Participation and Perception Questionnaire (CSPPQ). Frequency, simple percentage, mean, t-test and ANOVA were applied to analyse the collected data. The results of the study indicated that the majority of the pre-service teachers had a negative perception of community service programmes and never participated in such programmes. Important differences were found in the perception of community service programmes in terms of gender, mode of entry into university and type of study. However, in respect of age no noteworthy difference was found. Nor did the findings show any notable relationship between socio-demographic characteristics of students and their participation in and perception of community service. Similarly, no particular relationship existed between participation in and perception of community service ($r = .076$; $p < .05$). Although in a negative sense, type of study was the most potent predictor of student perception of community service. Based on the findings, it is suggested that community service be a formal part of the pre-service curriculum and students' in-school practice.*

Keywords: *pre-service teachers, participation, perception, community service*

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