Why Teach PE? Factors that Affect Students' Decisions to Teach Physical Education Revisited 重新探索影響體育學生教學的決定因素

Patrick McGAHA

Harding University, Arkansas 72149, U.S.A.

David BARNEY

Brigham Young University, Utah 84602, U.S.A.



Abstract

Many times a child will be asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The answers are varied, yet their responses usually reflect what their parents employ may be. For this study, factors were investigated that have an effect on college student's decision to become a physical education. For this study it was found that former physical education and coaches were the most influential people affecting college student's decision to become physical education teachers, not parents. It was also found that many of these college student's were actively involved in high school athletics, thus also affecting their decision to become a physical education teacher. The results from this study can serve PETE faculty to capitalize on their PETE student's excitement to teach physical education.

摘 要

本文旨在探索影響體育師範學生教學的決定因素,包括有師範學生的前體育老師及運動教練。

Introduction

The profession of teaching is considered to be a noble calling in today's society (Buskist, Benson & Sikorski, 2005). Teachers have the opportunity to play an influential role in educating those students in which they come in contact. Although much of society considers the teaching profession to be a noble profession, there are segments within society that regard the teaching profession with contempt. In many cases the teaching profession is not considered a top tiered profession. If this is the case, why do college students choose teaching as their desired profession?

The education literature has shed light on the multiple reasons why college students choose the teaching profession. Watts & Richardson (2008) suggested a general or main reason why college students choose to

teach, is they have altruistic reasons towards others. It was also found by Younger et al., (2004) that college students became teachers because of their love of the subject area and the opportunity to continue to work in that subject area. Because of the students love for the content, they can share their enthusiasm for the content with their students. Furthermore, the college students stated that because of their love and enthusiasm for the content, they would have the opportunity to shape students beliefs regarding the content they would be teaching. The authors summarized that these college students were passionate about their decision to become teachers and work with their future students.

Other research has indicated that college students become teachers because they "love working with children" (Jantzen, 1981, Thornton & Bricheno, 2002, Watts & Richardson, 2008). Other reasons for choosing

the teaching profession are the following: giving back to the community, time off in the summers, and good benefits (Ramirez, 2010). A final reason the research provides for college students choosing to teach is that they believe that they will be good teachers (Jantzen, 1981).

In the area of physical education, the literature has asked the same question, "Why teach physical education (PE)? Lawson (1983) discussed the topic of subjective warrant, which consists of a person's perceptions of the requirements for teacher education and for actual teaching in schools. The results are from years of socialization. For example, a student spends many hours in the gymnasium or on the playing fields, and contact with physical education's content matter, provides opportunities for a subjective warrant to be formed. Templin (1982) further explained a physical education major's subjective warrant by stating they have had an extensive background in sports, physical activity and physical education, and they express enjoyment of, and attachment to these activities. Another factor is that their subjective warrant has to do with their involvement in teaching and coaching experiences. Templin, Woodford, & Mulling (1982) address the importance of influential people as a major reason for physical education majors' choice of teaching physical education. College students identified former teachers and coaches, or family members as people that served as positive influences.

Spittle, Jackson, & Casey (2009) investigated the motivational forces of becoming a physical education teacher. In this study it was found that college students chose to become a physical education teacher because of several reasons: confident interpersonal reasons, sport and physical activity participation while growing up, low perceived demand, role models in their life, family influences, desire to work in a school setting and wanted sports and physical activity to be part of their job.

For this study Lawson's (1983) conceptual framework of subjective warrant serves as a model for investigating what affects PE majors to become PE teachers.

Thus, the purpose of this study was to investigate the factors that influence college students' becoming PE teachers. If factors and motivation compelling students' to become PE teachers could be identified, then that information could be used to influence teaching practices

and the development of course content. Also for physical education teacher educators, this is an ideal time to capitalize on college students' positive attitudes and excitement of becoming a physical educator. If previous research has already been conducted investigating why college students become PE teachers, how can this study benefit physical education teacher educators? The researchers hope to add to and strengthen the literature on this topic, in the hopes of shedding light on other variables affecting college student's decisions to become PE teachers.

Methods

Participants

Participants for this study were 67 PE majors (42 males & 25 females) from two universities, one located on the west coast (n=22) and the other university located in the central plains (n=45) of the United States. The universities Institutional Review Board (IRB) granted approval to conduct the study. These participants were all enrolled in a method of teaching physical education course.

Instrumentation

For this study the researchers used a survey created by Yerg (1997), specifically investigating factors affecting PE majors' decisions for choosing physical education teaching as a career choice. The survey was composed of 40 statements. Six statements were yes/no statements requiring a response from the PE major. Thirteen statements asked the PE majors about their PE experience in the K-12 schooling years. Ten statements asked the PE major regarding their career choice as a physical educator. The other eleven statements dealt with demographic matters of the students. To establish content validity the author of the survey had 25 PE majors (these students were not participants in the study) to review the survey. The survey was found to be valid (see Appendix 1).

Procedures

For this study the researchers asked the students from their method of teaching physical education class to complete the survey. The researcher explained the study, and asked the students to volunteer for the study. Students that did not participate in the study were assured that nonparticipation or withdrawal from this study would

not negatively affect their grade in the class. After the surveys were completed the researchers collected them.

Data Analysis

As a result of the nature of the survey, the results are qualitative and quantitative. The short answer questions were read and re-read until themes became evident (O'Sullivan & Tsangaridou, 1992). The quantitative end of the results will be reported as percentages.

Results

The results of the data will be presented in four categories, a) participation in sports and physical activity, b) PE experiences in K-12 school, c) reasons for choosing PE to teach, and d) people that affected the PE major's decisions.

Participation in Sports and Physical Activity

This category explored the PE majors' history regarding their participation on athletic teams and participation in activities requiring physical activity. The data revealed that 88% of the majors played on an athletic team in high school. Student responses to these questions found many of the students that played on high school sport teams were team captains, all-state performers and received other awards for top athletic performances. Students were also asked about participation in intramural sports at the university they were attending. Over 70% of the students played on a team or participated in an individual sport activity. Student responses found that students played on teams with friends, classmates (other PE majors), and that they played multiple sports (basketball, flag football, softball, volleyball, tennis, etc.).

PE Experiences in K-12 school

The data dealing with PE experiences in K-12 school found that 73% of the majors had physical education class from kindergarten to 10th grade. Participation in PE classes in 11th and 12th grades sharply declined to only 18% of the PE majors having PE classes. Of the 73% that had physical education class up to 10th grade, these students had physical education class three days a week.

Another point from the data covered the curriculum the majors were exposed to as students. The following are the curricular areas to which students were exposed. Motor skills were heavily taught in elementary school

(78%), team sports were emphasized in middle school (76%) and high school (66%), racquet sports were not taught as much to PE majors at all three levels. It was found that 85% in elementary, 63% in middle school, and 69% in high school were not exposed to racquet sports. Similarly, the data showed that the majors were not taught dance at all three levels just as they had not been taught racquet sports. In elementary 88%, 85% in middle school and 94% in high school were not exposed to dance. Data from students' participation in individual sports showed that 82% in elementary, 71% in middle school and 66% in high school were not exposed to individual sports (golf, tennis, bowling, etc.). And lastly, results revealed that a majority of the PE majors had some participation in cooperative games/activities (64% elementary, 58% middle school and 67% high school).

Reasons for Choosing PE to Teach

For this set of data the PE majors were asked 17 statements regarding why they chose to teach PE. The majors then ranked each statement from a Likert scale provided for them (1=least important; 2=slightly important; 3=neutral; 4=important and 5=very important). When analyzing the data from this statement, the top five responses with a "very important" response were; 1) to have fun at work (60%), 2) to be helpful to others (60%), 3) to stay associated with sports (57%), 4) to work with children (46%) and 5) to be paid for having fun (44%).

People That Affected the PE Majors' Decision to Teach PE

The next set of data asked the PE majors what people influenced them in their decision to teach PE. For this statement there were 17 different groups of people the PE majors ranked regarding how influential they were on the PE majors' decision to teach PE. The PE majors would rank each group of people with a Likert scale (1= least important, 2=slightly important, 3=neutral, 4=being important and 5=being the most The data revealed that mothers (23% being the most important) and fathers (22% being the most important) had minimal influence on the PE majors. Interestingly, legal guardians (82%), brothers (60%), and sisters (57%) had the highest percentages for being the least important for having an influence on the PE The group of people that had the greatest influence on PE majors were their PE teachers/coaches (31% being the most important and 33% being important).

Student responses from this statement found that students appreciated their former PE teacher/coach because of "the way they carried themselves", "I liked how they treated me and my classmates", and "they seemed to have it together".

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors that influence college students preparing to become Results from the four areas examined in PE teachers. this paper give a good picture as to why college students become PE teachers. First, PE majors participated in high school sports and were presently participating in intramural sports while attending college. These findings concur with Lawson's (1983) theory of subjective warrant, which involves a person's exposure in a certain type of environment and experiences within that environment. The subjective warrant for these students involved them having spent many hours in the gymnasium or on the playing field practicing or playing games. For this study the researchers did not inquire of the PE majors level of enjoyment and satisfaction while they participated in high school sports; however it can be surmised that it was enjoyable and satisfying because of the PE majors' responses to a survey question of wanting to still be associated with the sport.

Another finding from the data was that these PE majors are still physically active. These PE majors were actively involved in their universities intramural sports programs. Obviously, when these PE majors graduate they will not be able to participate in an intramural sport programs but it is hoped that the PE majors will know and understand the importance of being physically active, and in turn will promote and pass that on to their own students. This allows the PE majors to 'walk the walk' as they talk and discuss being physically active with their students (Haskell, et al., 2007).

Another point was with the PE majors' PE experiences in K-12 schools. Once again, the results from the data align with Lawson's (1983) theory of subjective warrant. Many of these PE majors in this study were on sport teams and continued to be involved in their universities intramural sports programs. From the PE majors educational experiences, a large majority of these students were heavily involved in team sports in their middle school and high school years. Unfortunately,

these PE majors were lightly exposed to such activities as racket sports, dance and individual sports. Because of this lack of exposure to these other types of activities there is the strong possibility that these PE majors will teach their PE classes in the same manner that they were taught when they were students (Doolittle, Dodds, & Placek, 1993).

The data reveals many reasons why PE majors choose to teach PE and are similar to what has been found in other studies. One of the main reasons students choose to be PE teachers is that they want to have fun at work. Templin (1983) addressed this point stating that many PE majors become PE teachers because they love activity and want to continue to be involved in this type of work. Activity and movement was always fun for them, thus PE majors want to continue to be involved in this type of work. Another reason students choose to teach PE is to work with children. literature this is probably the most common reason for students becoming teachers (Jantzen, 1981 & Thornton & Bricheno, 2002). One last reason students choose to become PE teachers is to help others. Throughout this study, student's' stated that they wanted to help influence their students to be "active throughout their life", "show student's the importance of exercise" and "help fight These statements allude to the fact that these obesity." PE majors felt they could positively influence their students in regards too being physically active. response was similar to what Watts & Richardson (2008) found among college students. In their study, college students stated that they wanted to be the person that would impart knowledge of the subject while trying to be positive and helpful influences in their students' lives.

The final and possibly the most influential point of discussion deal with the people, or person that affected the PE major's decision to teach PE. Templin (1983) reported that both mothers and fathers were very influential in a PE major's decision to teach PE. The results from this study do not concur with Templin's findings. The results from this study showed that for 64% of PE majors surveyed, the most influential person on their decision to teach PE was a former PE teacher/coach rather than a parent. These results indicate how influential a PE teacher can be to their students if these students eventually decide to teach PE.

Impact of the Study

These results suggest that the PE majors have been strongly influenced by many experiences and people in their lives. From these results former PE teachers/coaches have been shown to be the most influential people in affecting a student's decision in becoming a PE teacher. This finding should cause current PE teachers to pause and consider the example that they are providing their Current PE teachers must realize the great responsibility that they have in potentially determining a student's decision to teach PE in the future. Obviously not every student that takes a PE class will have a desire to become a PE teacher, but for those students that will teach PE, knowing how important it is that they expose their students to appropriate activities, games and fitness being taught in PE class can have a positive effect that can last a lifetime (Barney & Strand, 2008). The example being provided by the current PE teacher along with what activities the student participates in may very well is the determining factor in whether or not a student decides to become a PE teacher. Many of these students will watch and observe how they are taught in class, which in many cases will be carried over into their teacher preparation program (Doolittle, Dodds, & Placek, 1993).

Another consideration from the data is that physical education teacher educators need to stress to their current college students is the importance of being a good example when they become physical education teachers. It does not matter the level (elementary, middle school or high school) in which these college students will be teaching in, their students will always be watching and taking in what they do in class and how the class is taught. Thus, teaching PE is a very satisfying and personally fulfilling profession for so many because mentoring children truly is a noble calling.

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Correspondence

Patrick McGaha, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Harding University, 915 Market Ave. Searcy, Arkansas 72149

Phone: (501) 279-4344 Email: pmcgaha@harding.edu

David Barney, Ed.D.

Associate Professor, Brigham Young University
249 G Smith Field House, Provo, Utah 84602

Phone: (801) 422-6477 Fax: (801) 422-0652

Email: David_Barney@byu.edu

Appendix 1. Physical Education Majors Background Survey

Name
PART I: Personal Background
Instructions: Please check the answer, which bests fits, your situation. Where blanks are provided, fill in the blank with the appropriate answer. Please answer every question that applies to you.
1. Female Male
2. Age
3. Race/Ethnic Group: a Asian-American b African-American c Caucasian/White d Mexican-American/Chicano e Puerto Rican/American f American Indian g Other
4. Type of high school attended a Public b Private (religious affiliated) c Private (nonreligious) Name of high school
City State
5. In which high school track or program were you enrolled? a Business b College Prep c General d Vocational
6. High School Class Rank (if known) out of (number in class).
7. Present University status a Freshman b Sophomore c Junior d Senior e Fifth Year
8. Did you enter the PE major at Universities Name as a freshman or as a transfer student? a Freshman b Transfer student from another college or university c Transfer student from another program within this college d Transfer from another school/college at Universities name

9.	-	r, Previous majorlege		
10.		s) occupation nship		
	=	ionship		
11.		egree attained by parent(s) or guardi ociate Degree Bachelors Degree Other		
P	ART II: Background	in Sport		
12.	High School Sports No Yes	Did you participate in sports spons	sored by your high school?	
	Sport	Level: Frosh, JV, Varsity	Grade you were in	Awards you received
13.	College/University Spo program? No Yes	orts. Have you participated in or a	re you currently participating i	n an intercollegiate athletic
	Sport	Starter or sub	Years participated	Awards you received
14.	_	orts. Did you participate <u>in formal</u> le League, church league, communit		-
	Sport	Organization	A ge you participated	Awards you received
15.	Dance. Have you ev No Yes	ver taken dance lessons?		
	Kind of Dance	Age you participated	Who instructed?	Performed in public?
16.	_	Have you participated in recreational gram (for example, playing tennis on		
	Sport/Activity	Time of the year (F.W. Sp.Su)	Age you participated	

	Sport/Activity		Your	role		Ag	e(s) yo	ou pai	rtici	pated		Were	you pai	d?	
	Yes														
	No														
	scorer, timer, e	equipmen	t manager)'	?											
	or player (for	example,	officiating,	teaching	or	coaching	either	paid	or	voluntee	er, e.g.	assistant	coach,	recreation	director,
17.	Sport Related	Roles.	Have you	been invo	olved	in sport	or p	hysical	l ac	ctivity in	a ro	le other	<u>than as</u>	a particip	<u>ant</u>

PART III: Physical education background

We are seeking information on the physical education classes in which you participated in grades K-12. For our purposes, A PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS IS DEFINED AS A FORMAL CLASS HELD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY AND SUPERVISED BY A TEACHER.

Please check or indicate as many numbers as apply for each question in each grade. Put DR in the blank if you don't remember.

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
18. Check each grade														
in which you took PE														
as a class														
19. Check each grade														
in which PE was														
required														
20. Check each grade														
when a PE specialist														
taught your class.														
21. Check each grade														
in which physical														
fitness tests were														
required														
22. Check each grade														
in which skill tests														
were used to measure														
your performance														
23. Check each grade														
in which there were														
more than 30 students														
in your PE class														
24. Average number														
of PE classes per														
week in grades you														
took PE (1,2,3, etc)														
25. Indicate where			i	<u> </u>	i	<u> </u>								
you usually had PE														
by writing in the														
following letters														
for each grade:														
G=gym; O=outside; C=covered outside														
area; X=other														

26. Check the activities in which you had instruction in PE class in elementary, middle school/junior high, and high school. Put DR where you DON'T REMEMBER. Leave bland if the school did not offer or if the school offered but you did not take the activity.

	Elementary School	Middle School/Jr. High	High School
a. Basic motor skills:			
throwing, kicking, locomotor			
skills, etc.			
b. Low organization games			
c. Team Sports			
d. Racquet Sports			
e. Folk dance, ballroom			
dance			
f. Modern, ballet, jazz dance			
g. Rhythms and creative			
dance			
h. Movement education			
(body, space, effort)			
i. Adventure/Ropes			
j. Outdoor activities-cycling,			
backpacking, etc.			
k. Swimming-beginning,			
advanced,			
l. Martial Arts- judo, karate,			
self-defense			
m. Relaxation-yoga,			
meditation			
n. Track and Field			
o. Dance			
p. Other individual sports:			
golf, bowling			
q. New games/cooperative			
games			
r. Fitness development-			
jogging, weight training			
s. Gymnastics			

27. I	Please	write	in	any	skills/activities	not	listed	in	question	26	in	which	you	received	instruction	in	PΕ	class	
-------	--------	-------	----	-----	-------------------	-----	--------	----	----------	----	----	-------	-----	----------	-------------	----	----	-------	--

28.	In	your	high	school	dıd	varsity	athletics	have	to	take	physica	l education	classes	during	their	competitive	season?
		Yes															
		No															
29.	We	re yo	u eve	er a sti	ıdent	leader/l	nelper in	physic	cal	educa	ation cla	isses?					

29. Were you ever a student leader/helper in physical education classes?YesNo

30. Did you ever receive an award or reward in a physical education class?

___ Yes ___ No

If yes, what was it?

- 31. In your opinion, what should be the purpose of:
 - a. elementary (k-6) PE:
 - b. middle school/ junior high PE:
 - c. high school PE:

P	PART IV: Career Choice							
32.	. If you are sure what career you want to enter immediately below.	upon gradua	tion fr	om co	ollege,	check ONI	E main o	career
	If you are <u>not sure</u> exactly what career you want to pursue 5=fifth choice).	when you	graduat	e, ran	k up t	o 5 choice	es (1=firs	t choice,
	,							
	Secondary includes both middle/jr. high and high school.							
	a. Teach elementary PE but not coach							
	b. Teach secondary PE but not coach							
	c. Teach secondary PE and coach							
	d. Athletic Trainer							
	e. Teach PE at a college or university							
	f. Coach at a college or university							
	g. Teach PE and coach at a college or university							
	h. Teach elementary PE & coach							
	i. Become a professional athlete							
	j. Only coach at the secondary level							
	k. Work in a health or fitness club							
	l. Coach & teach a non-PE specialist							
	m. Work as a pro in a private club							
	n. Teach adapted or special PE							
	o. College level athletic director							
	p. Sell sports equipment							
	q. Physical Therapist							
	r. High school athletic director							
	s. Sport management							
	t. Other							
33.	. At what age did you decide on the career or the #1 choice y	you picked	above?					
34.	. Briefly describe how you became interested in that career.							
35.	. How important are the following reasons as they apply to you	current #1	choice	? C	ircle th	e number	that best	applies
	1 is the most important.							
	a. To use my athletic ability	1	2	3	4	5		
	b. The number of available job opportunity	1	2	3	4	5		
	c. To be helpful to others	1	2	3	4	5		
	d. To work with children	1	2	3	4	5		
	e. To stay associated with sports	1	2	3	4	5		
	f. To continue participation in sports	1	2	3	4	5		

g. To have fun at work	1	2	3	4	5
h. To be paid for having fun	1	2	3	4	5
i. Summers off	1	2	3	4	5
j. Plenty of vacation time	1	2	3	4	5
k. PE is an easier course of study in college	1	2	3	4	5
l. The security associated with employment	1	2	3	4	5
m. To improve the profession	1	2	3	4	5
n. To have a job with high status	1	2	3	4	5
o. To teach sports, games, and physical activity to young people	1	2	3	4	5
p. To coach sports	1	2	3	4	5
q. other	1	2	3	4	5

36. How important were each of the following people in influencing your immediate career choice (1 being the least important and 5 being the most important)?

a. Father	1	2	3	4	5
b. Mother	1	2	3	4	5
c. Legal Guardian	1	2	3	4	5
d. Brother	1	2	3	4	5
e. Sister	1	2	3	4	5
f. Other relative	1	2	3	4	5
g. Male Friend	1	2	3	4	5
h. Female Friend	1	2	3	4	5
i. School Coach	1	2	3	4	5
j. PE Teacher	1	2	3	4	5
k. PE Teacher/Coach	1	2	3	4	5
l. Classroom Teacher	1	2	3	4	5
m. School Counselor	1	2	3	4	5
n. Principal	1	2	3	4	5
o. Other	1	2	3	4	5

37. Rank order the individual from the previous question on the basis of who influenced you the most in your current career choice.

Most Influential								
2nd Most Influential								
3rd Most Influential								

- 38. What career work would you like to be doing immediately after you graduate from college?
- 39. What career work would you like to be doing 10 years after you graduate from college?
- 40. Why did you enroll as a Physical Education Major?