

Introduction

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS' WORK SATISFACTION IS AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE TO THEIR WORK ATTAINMENTS AND QUALITY WORK OUTCOMES. AT THE SAME TIME, BESIDES THEIR PROFESSIONAL WELL-BEING, THEIR PERSONAL WELL-BEING IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE, WHAT RAISES THE QUESTION ABOUT THE NATURE OF THEIR RELATEDNESS.

Well teachers – well children

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL WELL-BEING AMONG CROATIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS: ARE THEY RELATED?

Aim & Method

This study was aimed to explore the personal and professional well-being among Croatian early childhood teachers. Personal well-being is operationalized by an early childhood teachers' optimism, positive emotions, flow and life satisfaction, and their professional well-being is measured by their work satisfaction. Acquired data should result in practical implications for educators' work improvement from the aspect of positive psychology at the workplace. A total of 179 early childhood teachers from the Kindergarten "Rijeka", averaged age of 43 years and averaged 20 years of service, participated in this research.

Results & Conclusion

Regarding the professional well-being, results showed that early education teachers were moderately satisfied with their work. Similarly, results about their personal well-being demonstrated moderate to high levels of optimism, positive emotions, flow and life satisfaction. Correlation analyses revealed significant positive relationship between high levels of all personal well-being dimensions and high level of work satisfaction. Additionally, it was determined that older and highly experienced early childhood teachers are significantly less satisfied with work and less optimistic. Since personal and professional well-being of early childhood teachers is generally at moderate level in this study, life-long learning programs should be aimed at the content that enhances their overall well-being.

	Flow	Positive emotions	Life satisfaction	Optimism	Age	Work experience
Work satisfaction	0.413**	0.384**	0.387**	0.350**	-0.205*	-0.215**
Age	0.127	-0.105	-0.084	-0.227**	1.000	0.938**
Work experience	0.120	-0.080	-0.125	-0.234**	0.938**	1.000