



PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS: DELVING INTO THE EXPERIENCES OF PRACTICE TEACHERS IN THE STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Imelda Bautista - Vergara, Ph.D.

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0186-6944>

ivergara@sbcbatangas.edu.ph

St. Bridget College, Batangas City, Philippines

ABSTRACT

The Student Teaching Program is a vital component of the teacher education curriculum. It is one of the requisites for prospective teachers to complement their formal learning with practical application in the real-world setting. This study aimed to describe the significant experiences of student teachers of a private teacher education institution in Batangas City, Philippines as reflected in their Student Teaching Portfolio. It also determined the problems that student teachers encountered during their internship period and how they responded on. It utilized the qualitative descriptive research design and document analysis as a technique in analyzing the contents of the portfolio narrative. Pattern identification and coding process generated the result that the significant experiences of student teachers occurred as they carry out their functions of facilitating instruction, managing the class, and performing other instruction-related tasks. Among the overarching themes which emerged as captured in the narratives are the students they handled, the cooperating teachers who served as trainers, and the instructional activities conducted in class. The problems that they encountered centered on themes such as the nature of the students, school environment, class schedule, and instructional activities. It was recommended that the Student Teaching Program should continue to provide experiential learning activities which can enrich experiences, expose them to real settings, and prepare student teachers for their future profession. Seminars and training on managing student behavior should be provided to equip them with skills and competencies in classroom management. Enrichment sessions should also be organized to make them fully prepared in dealing with concerns and challenges, particularly in the school environment and instruction-related activities.

Keywords: Student Teaching Program, Portfolio, Internship Experiences, Qualitative Research, Philippines