202 - PE TEACHERS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL MANAGEMENT IN SLOVAKIA

BRANISLAV ANTALA – GEJMOVSKY ALEXANDER
Comenius University, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Bratislava, Slovakia, Europe

At the present is in Slovakia the new education law put into the practice. This new law brings several more changes into the life of schools. In the structure of schools is coming the new ISCED system into effort, the new two-level curriculum is being introduced – the State Education Program and school education programs, educational areas are introduced, also the cross-section topics, maximum number of students per class is regulated, the content of education in particular subjects is changed. It changes also the character of school physical and sport education (TŠV) (Antala – Labudová, 2008).

The state educational program determines also the exact number of lessons in particular subjects in particular grades of education. To this lessons may lock on by means of free lessons under the terms of school educational programs. About the utilization of free lessons of the school educational programs each school will decide on its own. At the point of decision making the decisive word will belong mostly to the headmasters and representatives of schools. That´s why we were interested in the current representation of the teachers of physical and sport education in managerial positions.

Aims of the research

The main aim of the research was to find out the current state of representation of PE teachers in the school management, their age structure and how do men and women assert themselves in their position.

Research methodics

The research sample was made of school headmasters and deputy headmasters of high schools. The research was targeted mainly to the managers of high schools. By the means of questionnaire and following interviews we got answers from 231 school managers, out of which 94 were school headmasters and 137 deputy headmasters. The research was realized at the end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008.

The results

Our results show the higher representation of women than men in manager positions of the schools (Fig.1). It is obvious, that the high feminization of schools proves also in the manager posts. The part of men in the school management is clearly higher than the part of men in staffs. Another situation is in the representation of men and women – PE teachers in the management of schools. Here dominantly prevail men.

The part of women – PE teachers on the posts of school headmasters and deputy headmasters is quite small. A little higher representation women have mostly on the posts of deputy headmasters, men have stronger representation on the posts of school headmasters (Fig.2)

Figure 1

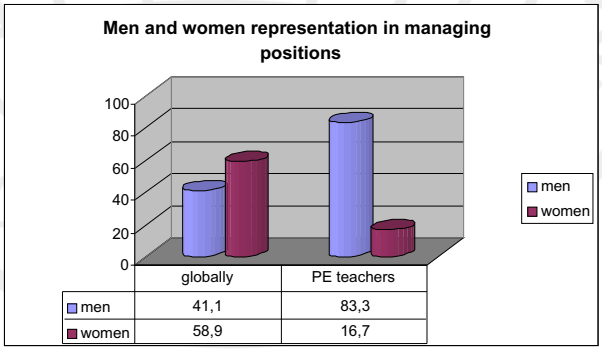
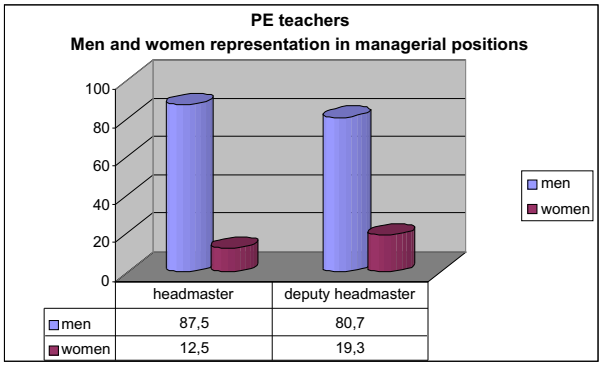


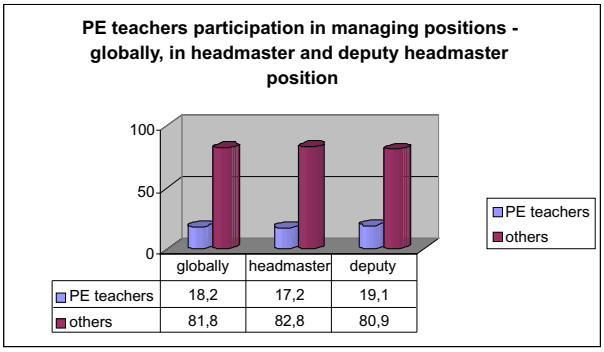
Figure 2



On the position of school headmasters and deputy headmasters there is only 18.2% of teachers that have teaching qualification with physical education (Fig.3). 81.8% are teachers of other school subjects. We find the rate of teachers of physical and sport education quite small, e.g. in the neighbouring Czech Republic it is about 30%.

We think that with regard to the abilities that teachers have at their disposal, there might be more of them in the manager posts. We come out of the character of the work at the managing of the physical education teaching, in the organization of skiing courses, courses in nature, school sport contests and other activities of the school. Representation of the PE teachers in the position of headmaster and deputy headmaster is nearly the same. Out of those PE teachers, who are in manager functions, 38% are headmasters and 62% are deputy headmasters.

Figure 3



We also found out that the most of headmasters and deputy headmasters is at the age of 50 years and more (Fig.4). In the schools are employed mainly experienced teachers. Only 10.4% of them are managers in the age to 40 years. In the school milieu teachers come to the managing functions gradually, with the growing age. In many other areas the manager age decreases more and more. Young people maybe have lack of experience, but they are more courageous for doing changes, keep up with the times, bring into the management and school performance more innovations. That´s why they should not be left aside in this area.

Figure 4

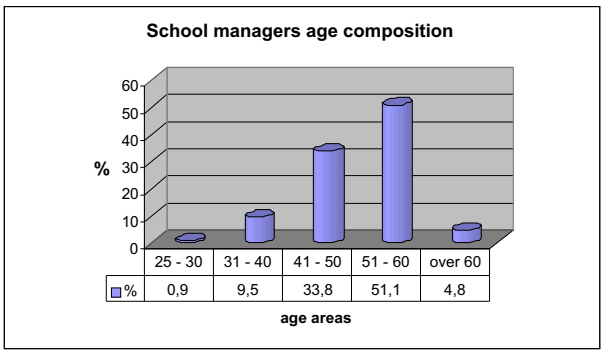
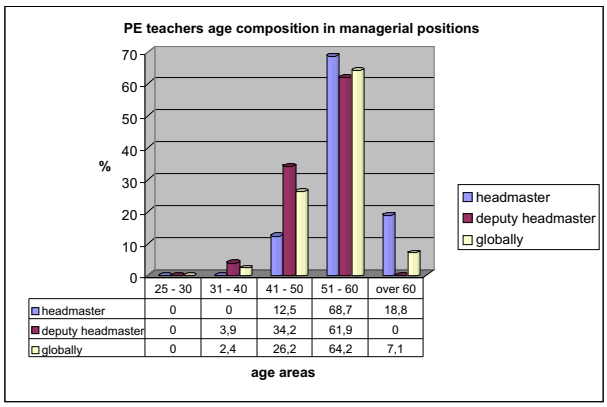


Figure 5



Teachers of physical and sports education, who are in manager positions do not follow the age structure of managing workers. On the positions of headmasters is in the age over 50 years 87.5%, what is noticeably higher age in comparison to the age structure of other headmasters.

In our research sample we didn´t notice any headmaster – PE teacher, who would be younger than 40 years. Representation of a bit younger PE teachers is mostly in the position of deputy headmasters. This situation is probably related also to the high average age of physical and sport education teachers – 43.1 years (Lakóová, 2006), with little interest for work in profession concerning the young alumni of pedagogic specialization study, where only 37.3% (Tóthová – Labudová, 2007) start to work in schools with insufficient financial evaluation of teachers any many other causes.

Conclusion

The ratio of PE teachers in the management of schools we consider for low. In managing functions are out of all PE teachers mostly men. This concerns mostly people of higher age. Only minimum of PE teachers to the 40 years of age are in the function of headmasters and deputy headmasters.

We think that it is quite necessary that PE teachers should become more interested in the posts of headmasters and deputy headmasters so they could pay interest on the education process organization, courses and other kinds of different activities. Especially should in this direction become active also younger teachers. Even women – PE teachers shouldn´t be

afraid, because just women – teachers of other subjects prevail in the managing positions.

The relevance of the participation of PE teachers in the management of schools grows mainly in this period, when the newly adopted eductaion law comes into force, where the schools will decide about school education programs on their own. School managers will have the decisive word. More obvious participation of physical and sport education teachers in the management of schools may strengthen the position of school physical and sport education and it may also raise the precondition of the insertion of our subject into school educational programs of particular schools.

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ABSTRACT

The ratio of PE teachers on the management of schools is 18.2 %. In the managing functions are from PE teachers mostly men (83.3%). These are mostly people over 50 years of age. Only minimum of PE teachers at the age before 40 years hold the function of headmasters and deputy headmasters.We think that it is quite necessary that PE teachers should be interested for the posts of headmasters and deputy headmasters and their experience so they could pay interest on the education process organization, courses and other kinds of different activities. Especially should in this direction become active also younger teachers. Even women – PE teachers shouldn´t be afraid, because just women – teachers of other subjects prevail in the managing positions.