The determination of cooperative teacher’s knowledge problems: training device and attractiveness of Tunisian student-teachers

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Abstract

Purpose: This study was to explore the impact of the cooperative teacher’s (CT) knowledge on attractiveness of Physical Education Student Teachers (PE-ST) believed to be important for a successful process of learning to teach and training device in the workplace. The CT is considered, a key element, a person of alternation between academia and training contributing to the formation by advice and support that take place during the teaching practice. The Cooperative Teacher must have a style; develop a training contract, master interview techniques and make evaluation.

Material: Data were collected with 302 student teachers (202 males and 100 females) after professional training. A descriptive/exploratory methodology based on a questionnaire consisting of twenty questions was used. The value of Cronbach alpha index is 0.729.

Results: Globally supported the hypotheses. Male and female student teachers in the internship shared several perceptions. However, significant differences emerged. Student-teachers’ perception of CT knowledge and practice developed relatively professional skills as well as the feeling of discomfort which can lead to work stoppage. However, the impact of CT knowledge on attractiveness was significant. The inefficiency advice between actors in the professional life and several aspects of CT knowledge are provided. In addition, data are provided indicating that overall there are more similarities than differences between male and female student teachers over a response number. Data also shows that females who participate in the internship may be at risk for discomfort, incapable and doubt their practices.

Conclusions: This study will encourage Teacher’s to reflect on their own knowledge, training device and to include them in the process of educational development.

Keywords: professional training, teaching practice, knowledge, discomfort.

Introduction

Studies of the process of becoming a teacher and professional skills development have received significant attention in the last decade, trying to explain the complexities of this phenomenon. However, questions remain as to how well higher education institutions prepare the Student Teachers (PE-STs) to meet the challenges and requirement of work environments. Thus, professionals know how to put their skills into action in all situations, able to think in action and to adapt and dominate any new situation [1, 2, 3]. Though, skills are deployed in a professional context [4, 5, 6]. Tardif [7] claimed that the internship is the foundation of the professional skills of the teachers; it is the opportunity to put pedagogical, didactic and disciplinary knowledge for learning professional practice. In addition, the process of learning to teach develops self and class understanding and enriches teaching practices and professional thinking [8]. In this context, Brawdy & Byram [9] suggest that future teachers should be given the opportunity to acquire appropriate teaching skills and develop the practical experience of teaching in schools. Teaching skills are rooted in the personal history of teachers, and can only be learned through practice [10]. According to Desbiens et al. [11] the internship is alternating and continuous with other training times. It is the training time that promotes a familiarization with the dynamics of school and class, and the construction of professional action.

In the workplace, the cooperative Teacher (CT) is considered a person of alternation between academia and training, contributing to the formation by advice and support [12, 13]. This support requires experience and skills in terms of accompaniment such as knowing how to communicate, reflect on its action, observe, solve problems and evaluate the trainees’ learning [14]. This is corroborated by a number of studies in different disciplines. For instance, Boutet & Rousseau [15] opined that the characteristics of an effective CT are: experience, self-confidence, openness to theoretical contributions and reflection, coherence and acceptance to be questioned. Carlier [16] assumed that the CT and PE-ST exchange academic and practical knowledge to guide the verbalization of PE-ST’s action by asking questions that they have put in place. He suggests that CTs recognize the existence of two types of knowledge and try to exploit them optimally. The aim is to train an independent teacher with specific, specialized skills based on rational, recognized, science-based knowledge, legitimized by the University or explicit knowledge derived from practices [1, 17].

Vanderleyen et al. [18] highlight the dual role of CT, to be able to explain their own pedagogical concepts to
PE-ST and help them to clarify their thoughts, actions and decisions. However, Chalies & Durand [19] note that internship experiences have unclear objectives, poorly framed theoretically, lack planning and supervision by host communities. The internship may lose sight of the educational and social goals pursued. Concerns maintain that (PE-STs) The accompaniment practices may not be equipping (PE-STs) with the key skills needed to confront real teaching problems [20, 21, 22]. This experience may become a source of discomfort and confusion [23, 24]. Ndoreraho & Martineau [25] report that stress in work environment affect the interest of PE-ST in the teaching profession. Brau-Antony et al. [26] found that tutoring is a difficult function to perform because the skills required to be a tutor are different from teaching. On another hand, the higher education institutions should develop the criteria for selecting CTs [27, 28, 29].

In Tunisia, university aim is to help PE-STs articulate the process of teaching learning in schools. We answered through this research the following questions are: the knowledge of the CT transformed in to discomfort? What impact do they have PE-STs?

Materials and Methods

Participants
The research involved a cohort of 302 PE-FTs, 202 (66.9%) males and 100 (33.1%) females, from total 314 PE-STs studying in the Higher Institute of Sport and Physical Education (ISSEP) Tunis (there are only 3 ISSEP, in Tunisia each has their own teaching practice modality). twelve participants did not participate in the study. All participants in this study were volunteers. They were recruited from a single Higher Institute of Sport (Tunis). The group of participants consisted of the third year PE-FT. The ages of the participants varied from 21 to 23 years old and the mean age was 21.62 (SD = 0.67). Nearly half of the participants carried out their teaching practice in an urban high school (N = 49, 16.2%), 69.5% (N = 210) in a semi-urban high school and 14.2% (N = 43) in a rural setting. More than half of the participants (N = 187, 61.9%) did not have any further contact with the work world, while 38.1% (N = 115) had some previous professional experience, mainly in education (teaching, training) and hotel sector. That experience was part-time. They were registered in an introductory practicum to professional training in Tunisia (introductory practicum applied to pedagogy), that is ended, in the last year, by the Fundamental License of Physical Education [13]. This activity has serves as an introduction to professional life. The activity lasts two semesters: four hours per week on Tuesday or Thursday for a cumulative total time of 116 hours of teaching [30, 31]. Participants are not paid to participate in the research. They were not informed about the purpose and conception of the research.

The following variables were calculated using descriptive statistic: frequencies, percentages, and Cranach alpha index. Assessment of statistical significance between male and female student teachers was performed using a Chi-square. Correlation between CT’s knowledge and attractiveness of PE-ST was applied. A p value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.
Results

The CT knowledge

Theoretical knowledge (TK)

Eight items emerged from the data collected and were illustrated in Table 1: Item 1) CT proposes PE-ST to refer to the EP objectives, Item 2) CT proposes PE-ST to refer to the official programs, Item 3) CT transmits advice on the pedagogical aspect, Item 4) CT transmits PE-ST students' mastery advice, Item 5) CT transmits PE-ST student security advice, Item 6) CT transmits PE-ST advice of choice situations, Item 7) CT talk about student evaluation, Item 8) CT’s analysis based on theoretical approaches.

The “CT theoretical knowledge” includes eight items: Item 1: “CT proposes PE-ST to refer to the EP objectives” (Sometimes / Usually = 27.8 / 15.2%); Item 2: “CT proposes PE-ST to refer to the official programs” (S/U = 27.5 / 31.8%); Item 3: “CT transmits advice on the pedagogical aspect” (S/U = 34.1 / 46.4%); Item 4: “CT transmits PE-ST students’ mastery advice” (S/U = 34.4 / 38.4%); Item 5: “CT transmits PE-ST student security advice” (S/U = 32.5 / 43.4%); Item 6: “CT transmits PE-ST advice of choice situations” (S/U = 40.4 / 25.8%); Item 7: “CT talks about student evaluation” (S/U = 34.8 / 19.5%); Item 8: “CT’s analysis based on theoretical approaches” (S/U = 29.8 / 15.6%).

Significant gender differences were also found for CT transmits PE-ST pedagogical advice ($X^2 = 0.010$, $P = 11.409$; females stronger), CT analysis Based on theoretical approaches ($X^2 = 0.000$, $P = 19.928$). No significant gender differences were found for CT proposes PE-ST to refer to the EP objectives ($X^2 = 0.132$, $P = 5.606$), CT proposes PE-ST to refer to the official programs ($X^2 = 0.504$, $P = 2.345$), CT transmits PE-ST students’ mastery advice ($X^2 = 0.866$, $P = 0.729$), CT transmits PE-ST security advice ($X^2 = 0.094$, $P = 6.392$), CT transmits advice of choice situations ($X^2 = 0.416$, $P = 2.844$), CT talks about student evaluation ($X^2 = 0.671$, $P = 1.548$).

The practical knowledge (PK)

Eight items emerged from the data collected and were illustrated in Table 2: Item 1) CT conscious of PE-ST success and failure points, Item 2) CT impose these ideas to PE-ST, Item 3) CT learns PE-ST how to communicate with students, Item 4) CT learns PE-ST how to motivate students, Item 5) CT transmits his experience in sport training, Item 6) CT compare his experience to PE-ST, Item 7) CT false PE-ST knowledge, Item 8) CT Transmits general knowledge.

The “CT practical knowledge” includes eight items: Item 1: “CT conscious of PE-ST success and failure points” (S/U = 36.8 / 36.8%); Item 2: “CT impose his ideas to PE-ST” (S/U = 30.5 / 36.8%); Item 3: “CT learn PE-ST how to communicate with students” (S/U = 33.4 / 26.5%); Item 4: “CT learn PE-ST how to motivate students” (S/U = 38.1 / 28.5%); Item 5: “CT transmits to PE-ST his experience in sport training” (S/U = 16.9 / 13.6%); Item 6: “CT compare his experience to PE-ST” (S/U = 28.8 / 24.5%); Item 7: “CT false PE-ST knowledge” (S/U = 21.2 / 44.7%); Item 8: “CT transmits PE-ST general knowledge” (S/U = 29.8 / 15.6%).
PE-ST how to communicate with students” (S/U =33.4 /26.5%); Item 4: “CT learns PE-ST how to motivate students” (S/U =38.1 /28.5%); item 5: “CT transmits his experience in sports training” (S/U =16.9 /13.3%); Item 6: “CT compare his experience to PE-ST” (S/U =22.8 /14.6%); Item 7: “CT false PE-ST knowledge” (S/U =26.8 /11.9%); Item 8: “CT Transmits general knowledge” (S/U =44.7 /24.5%).

Significant gender differences were also found for CT compare his experience to PE-ST (X2 = 0.032, P = 0.978), impose his ideas to PE-ST (X2 = 0.587, P = 1.932), learn PE-ST how to communicate with students (X2 = 0.374, P = 3.118), how to motivate students (X2 = 0.331, P = 3.422). CT transmits to PE-ST his experience in sports training (X2 = 0.110, P = 6.023) and general knowledge (X2 = 0.978, P = 0.197).

Impact on attractiveness of the profession (AP)

Four items were identified from the data collected and illustrated in Table 3: item 1) Having considered another professional orientation, item 2) Having considered a work stoppage, item 3) The feeling of strong anger, the urge to cry, item 4) Having thought to be in a bad situation.

The “The attractiveness of the profession repercussions” of PE-ST from CT includes five items: Item 1: “Consider another professional orientation” (S/U =13.9 /8.6%); Item 2: “Having considered a work stoppage” (S/U =15.9 /4.6%); Item 3: “The feeling of strong anger, the urge to cry” (S/U =32.1 /14.6 %); Item 4: “Having thought to be in a bad situation” (S/U =32.5 /13.9%).

Significant gender differences were also found for PE-ST feeling of strong anger; the urge to cry (X2 = 0.000, P = 22.000.; females stronger). No significant gender differences were found for PE-ST Consider another professional orientation (X2 = 0.866, P = 0.732), having considered a work stoppage (X2 = 0.227, P = 4.339), CT remains in the classroom (X2 = 0.501, P = 2.362), having thought to be in a bad situation (X2 = 0.909, P = 0.544).

Table 4 shows that the correlations supported the positive, significant relationship between all the CT theoretical knowledge and the attractiveness of the profession. However, having “considered another professional orientation” was only significantly associated with “CT transmits PE-ST security advice” (r=0.031; p=0.108), “CT analysis Based on theoretical approaches” (r=0.020; p=0.118). “Consider stopping work in an internship” was only significantly associated with “CT transmits PE-ST masters students advice” (r=0.030; p=0.108) and “CT analysis Based on theoretical approaches” (r=0.016; p=0.124).

The results on Table 5 indicate that the correlations supported the positive, significant relationship between all the CT practical knowledge and the attractiveness of the profession. However, having “considered another professional orientation” was only significantly associated with “CT transmits PE-ST his experience in sports training” (r=0.020; p=0.118). “Consider stopping work in an internship” was only significantly associated with

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<th>Items</th>
<th>Correlation TK1 TK2 TK3 TK4 TK5 TK6 TK7 TK8</th>
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<tr>
<td>AP 1</td>
<td>Pearson Correlation .036 .043 .048 .005 .108* -.020 -.036 -.118*</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Sig. (1-tailed) .266 .227 .201 .463 .031 .362 .265 .020</td>
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<td>N                                   302 302 302 302 302 302 302 302</td>
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<td>Pearson Correlation .043 .046 .015 .108* .024 .009 .016 .124*</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP 2</td>
<td>Sig. (1-tailed) .229 .212 .400 .030 .339 .435 .392 .166</td>
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<td>Pearson Correlation .043 .019 -.074 .088 -.003 -.038 .008 -.042</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP 3</td>
<td>Sig. (1-tailed) .226 .369 .100 .065 .481 .254 .444 .233</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<td>Pearson Correlation -.010 -.027 -.043 .070 .006 -.074 -.084 .054</td>
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<td>AP 4</td>
<td>Sig. (1-tailed) .431 .320 .228 .112 .459 .100 .073 .175</td>
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<td>N</td>
<td>N                                   302 302 302 302 302 302 302 302</td>
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Note: **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed). *. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed).
“CT impose his ideas to PE-ST” (r=0.019; p=0.120), “CT compare his experience to PE-ST” (r=0.016; p=0.124), “CT false PE-ST knowledge” (r=0.025; p=0.113) and “CT’s analysis Based on theoretical approaches” (r=0.013; p=0.129). “Have the feeling of strong anger, the urge to cry” was only significantly associated with “CT false PE-ST knowledge” (r=0.000; p=0.237). “Have thought to be in a bad situation at the internship” was only significantly associated with “CT false PE-ST knowledge” (r=0.000; p=0.204).

### Discussion

Le role of CT is to provide a training quality in terms of teaching practice for student-trainees that meet the challenges and requirements of work environment as a whole, which have not been recognized. Thus, the purpose of this research was to identify CT knowledge problems (academic and experiential knowledge) and analyze the impact on attractiveness of student teachers (PE-STs) which are believed to be important for a successful teaching and training device in the workplace.

According to our results, the workplace is the learning environment in which the trainee student is located and integrates the material device, the objects of knowledge or know-how, previous acquisitions and the memory of the class. In this context, the concept of didactic contract is central, concentrating the rules that organize the teacher/student/knowledge relationship. It is the anchor from which didactic observation can be structured [33]. As part of the training contract, Carlier [16] suggests clarifying the mutual expectations between PE-ST and CT according to the internship objectives. The CT must take the initiative of establishing the contract: “Me, Cooperative Teacher, what are my strengths, my specificities? What can I honestly and modestly bring to you, which you will not find elsewhere? “ [14]. According to Darnis & Magendie [34], CT adopts an investigative posture and leads the trainee to use his theoretical knowledge, to mobilize them, to confront them with obstacles encountered in the field. In order to properly guide the verbalization of his action, Carlier [14] suggests that the CT establish a trusting relationship and a communication contract with PE-ST. He notices CT enters the trainee’s intimacy through questioning. From his first contact with trainees, Mouton [35] notes that the organization and conduct of the internship that sets up EA will influence the effectiveness of advice and their appropriations.

Our results, Also, showed knowledge problems between CT and PE-ST. Crinon [36] suggests not to lead PE-ST to mourn his practice, rather to lead him to rethink and deepen the meaning through a reflexive return on the discipline and its meaning: by asking what it means to do physical education (PE) with this class? One must ask: How, despite everything, make them do PE?

According to Schon [37] the paradigm that has dominated the research is the reflexive teacher. Moreover, the valued training practices are those that promote reflexivity. In this sense, Paquay [38] asks a question: what strategies to train reflexive practitioners? In these studies, he discovered that the means of training reflexive teachers are multiple: first of all, to carry out a situational diagnosis. Then, produce instrumental approaches to teaching in reference to a theory. Finally, prepare lessons by explaining the choices and associate PE-ST to evaluate their courses. In addition, He noted that the critical point of a formation of “reflexive teacher” is the accompaniment by experienced CT who are accustomed to think of their practices. Concretely, if the internships are prepared, supervised and exploited. They can contribute to the professionalization of reflexive teachers.

Dugal & Amade-Escot [39], also, described each CT attitudes in these interactions. He noticed that the CT adopted three dominant attitudes in these post-lesson interviews: attitudes of investigation, evaluation and decision-making. However, Tannehill & Zakrajsek [40] noticed that the communication structure during the meetings between the CT and PE-ST was organized around suggestions for the improvement of the PE-ST practice rather than around a dynamic that encourages reflection. Also, they stated that CTs meet PE-STs once
a week in a formal way (scheduled meeting to talk about ES intervention).

Dugad & Amade-Escot [39] found that attitudes of understanding, support and interpretation were less observed. They advanced as interpretation that the frequently attitudes observed in the post-lesson interviews referred to attitudes about their role as teachers of PE, which led to confusion with the CT role. This interpretation is consistent with that proposed by Pelpel [41].

The discomfort, stress, distress and dropout professional in the workplace can be provided by CT knowledge. Our results demonstrate that the impact of CT knowledge problems and attractiveness was significant.

Paquay & Wagner [42] found that the internship is an opportunity for PE-ST to conform to traditional practices, to discover recipes and to gain practical knowledge entirely cut off from theory. He argues that only a reflexive analysis would allow a transposition and an adaptation of this practical knowledge to new situations. Calderhead [43] state that insecure PE-ST cling to these “practical knowledge” to the point that they become hermetic to any theorizing.

In describing the forms of joint commitments and interactions, Trohel et al. [44] noticed that the CT is not trained in the role of tutor; they act according to their professional experience in teaching physical education. Darnis & Magendrie [34] propose to train mentors in counselling skills so that they are able to encourage reflective analysis in ES and engage in an active search for solutions to problems encountered. Thus, The CT must secure and support the PE-ST, both materially and psychologically. Rajuan et al. [45] opined to introduce trainees to students and to give them as much information as possible about the program and materials.

In most countries, according to Paquay [46], the teaching profession tends to be considered a profession. Thus, a professional is a person who performs intellectual acts autonomously and responsibly. The professional is autonomous since he is able to self-regulate and guide their action and learning through critical analysis of the results of his practice. Wideen [47] defines the teacher as a strategist who updates his basic knowledge and tries a new approach to improve the efficiency of his practice. Perrenoud [48] state that this is the ability to capitalize on the experience and reflect on its practice to reorganize it. The practitioner according to Tardif [49] constitutes an experiential knowledge in evolution. Paquay [38] found that the theoretical and pedagogical skills are acquired through long training.

**Conclusion**

This article focuses on the role of supervisory knowledge in the professional development of future teachers. In addition, it describes a teacher development monitoring framework, reflect on teaching practices, and reflection on a more integrated knowledge of theory and practice of the teaching profession. The questions addressed in this study will encourage CT to reflect on their own knowledge, training device and to include them in the process of accompaniment of PE-STs. Our results reflect the views of all the population of PE-ST exercising their traineeship in schools of Tunis. In light of our results, it is possible to make a statement concerning CT teaching practice and share PE-ST preoccupation such as knowledge impact. We are far from an ideal accompaniment situation and PE-ST problems that life must draw the attention of the priority of the internship responsible. Furthermore, the hypothesis is verified: CT teaching practice can be characterized by a high variability, namely knowledge on a scale Frequency converter.

According to some of the literature, CT was a person of alternation between academia and training, a key element on the student teachers’ emotional balance and support for teaching at time of the teaching profession [50, 30, 51]. It is in the knowledge interchange setting that the student teachers seem to find more adequate answers emerging during the practice, helping him/her to overcome the confusion and discomfort, the feelings of incapability and doubt their practices [6, 52-54].

In Tunisia, we saw that teaching practices offer relatively favorable climate training. This statement should hold the attention of CT, supervisors, university teachers and people in charge of training, and get them to think a light of PE-STs preoccupation. So, teaching practices are calling for new developments in the near future. Data from PE-STs provide lighting and additional lines of investigation to improve teaching practices.

**Conflict of interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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