

Journey between poles: Fostering critical and reflective thinking for pre-service teachers

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INTRODUCTION & AIM

Teachers' role is full of tensions and contradictions, and demands navigation between different needs from parents., students, colleagues, and superiors. The purpose of I study was to examine the contribution of students' critical thinking about classroom atmosphere in their practical training. Navigation between these poles and tensions may assist the teacher in creating an optimal educational climate in the educational setting. These aspects are extremely important for 21st century skills especially in teacher training to lead to change in the education system.

(Hajovsky et al., 2020; Kuloglu & Karabeakmez, 2022; Tong et al., 2023)

METHOD

This qualitative phenomenological study. was conducted in 2023-2025. Research tools were focus groups and reflective diaries. Participants were 75 female teaching students who studied in "The Educator's Identity" course. Participants were asked to point out aspects of daily life in the classroom that express tension, and to suggest an additional topic that they believe is missing . Most students chose the tense between the need to include pupils versus the need to set boundaries for them, followed by the axis of tension between personal fulfillment versus achievement and excellence.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Tensions in teachers' world



CONCLUSION

Integrating critical thinking about teachers' role may lead to well-being of students and teachers in the educational framework, especially in special education.

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