



MOTIVES TO BEGIN PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDIES

Comparative analysis in Algeria and Wallonia



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INTRODUCTION

- ◆ There are many reasons explaining why students choose one professional project and/or an academic programme.
- ◆ This study is in the field on comparative education. It proposes a comprehensive reading of two educational systems respecting openness and expansion of knowledge principles.
- ◆ The background of the research is based on two studies conducted in physical education teacher educators in very different cultural contexts:
 - ➔ (1) "Analysis of the current system of educators' permanent training in national sports movement for its development" (G.R.M.J.S., 1983) – Algeria
 - ➔ (2) "Appropriateness between existing PE teacher educators, motivations of students and professional opportunities" (Groupe de recherche inter universitaire de l'UCL et l'ULg, 2002) - Wallonia

GOALS

- ◆ To identify the motivations, characteristics and expectations of students from different institutions proposing one PE degree.
- ◆ To determine the profiles of young people who choose to become PE teachers or sports educators.

METHOD

- ◆ This study is based on a cross analysis of the opinions of staff members, students and graduates of four institutions proposing a degree in the area of the Human Movement Sciences.
- ◆ In each cultural context, a university structure and a non university structure were selected as sites for analysis.

Participants

- ◆ In total, 290 subjects participated in this study (Table 1)

	Wallonia		Algeria		Total
	Univ.	Non univ.	Univ.	Non univ.	
Staff	7	5	16	12	40
Students	11	20	54	23	108
Graduates	31	14	64	33	142
Total	49	39	134	68	290

Instruments

- ◆ Staff Structured interview with closed and open questions
- ◆ Students and graduates Questionnaires with open and closed questions

Treatment

- ◆ This poster is based on the analysis of the answers to two closed questions (Likert scales of four levels - degree of agreement about proposals).
- ◆ Answers were coded in a database and processed using the Statistica software (Stat Soft, 2006).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis by institutions (Table:2)

Percentages of positive opinions of staff members to the proposed items	Wallonia		Algeria		P
	IU (%)	INU (%)	IU (%)	INU (%)	
Love of sport	85.7	100	87.5	100	0.49
Willingness to work in the field of PE	100	80	87.5	100	0.35
Willingness to practice sports	100	100	68.8	75	0.21
Positive image of sports occupation	57.1	80	43.8	100	0.01
Desire to work outdoors	14.3	60	50	41.7	0.35
Search to achieve easier studies	28.6	40	43.8	8.3	0.22
Ease of later jobs	28.6	0	31.3	7.5	0.01
Willingness to maintain ones' fitness	28.6	40	18.8	25	0.80

◆ The love of the sport and willingness to work in the field of PE were clearly the items that students best considered.

◆ Desire to work outdoors seemed generally to be less important compared to the items proposed.

◆ Willingness to maintain ones' physical fitness is surprisingly low.

◆ On the contrary to what was expected, students in non university structures did not give greater priority to "Ease of later jobs".

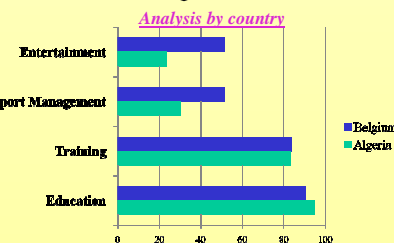
◆ No significant differences appeared for the "Love of sport" that was for the most important motive in both countries.

◆ Graduates and students of both countries look primarily at teaching as a professional project desired by the students during registration training ;

◆ Members of the Algerian educational teams are more likely considering that the training is the most desired professional project than in their Wallonian counterparts.

Analysis by country (Table:3)

Percentages of positive opinions of students to the proposed items	Wallonia %	Algeria %	P
Love of sport	96.8	96.1	0.86
Willingness to practice sports	93.5	93.5	0.994
Willingness to work in the field of PE	93.5	88.3	0.41
Desire to work outdoors	45.2	80.5	0.00
Willingness to maintain ones' fitness	64.5	71.4	0.48
Positive image of sports occupation	64.5	62.3	0.83
Ease of later jobs	29.0	27.3	0.85
Search to achieve easier studies	03.2	09.1	0.29



Profile of the professional projects expected by the students

CONCLUSIONS

- ◆ The actors who participated in this study expressed similar opinions regarding the reasons to begin PE studies and their professional projects as PE and sports' graduates.
- ◆ This research highlighted the fact that there are similarities in the expectations of sports educators in Algeria and in Wallonia.
- ◆ The cultural contexts does not seem to influence the expectations about the initial education.
- ◆ According to the comparison between both countries, the love of sport and teaching are clearly the most anticipated motives to begin PE and sport studies..

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