

Plovdiv Municipality



Attitudes of male and female students to internships in the kindergartens



Problem

- Kindergartens provide children only with female behavior and role models.
- Stereotypes about male and female professions contribute to the nearly 100% female teaching staff.
- Due to the low pay and public image of the profession, it is not attractive for the young pedagogues with more diverse qualifications, like foreign languages and arts or psychology graduates and as a result they rarely specialize in this problematic.



Demand for additional classes

- There is a big demand expressed by the parents for additional classes in music, arts and English language in kindergartens.
- For answering the demand the kindergartens ensure external teachers in foreign languages and arts. These services are additionally paid by the parents.

At the same time there is an unused resource:

- All graduates in pedagogical specialties in their final year of study have compulsory practical internships.
- There is no practice up to now these internships to be done in kindergartens, neither the attitudes of graduates and especially men towards such options have been explored.



Object of the Survey

Students studying various subjects were interviewed for the purposes of the survey in two universities in Plovdiv:

- **Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts**
- **Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski**



Objectives

To explore the attitudes of male and female students to:

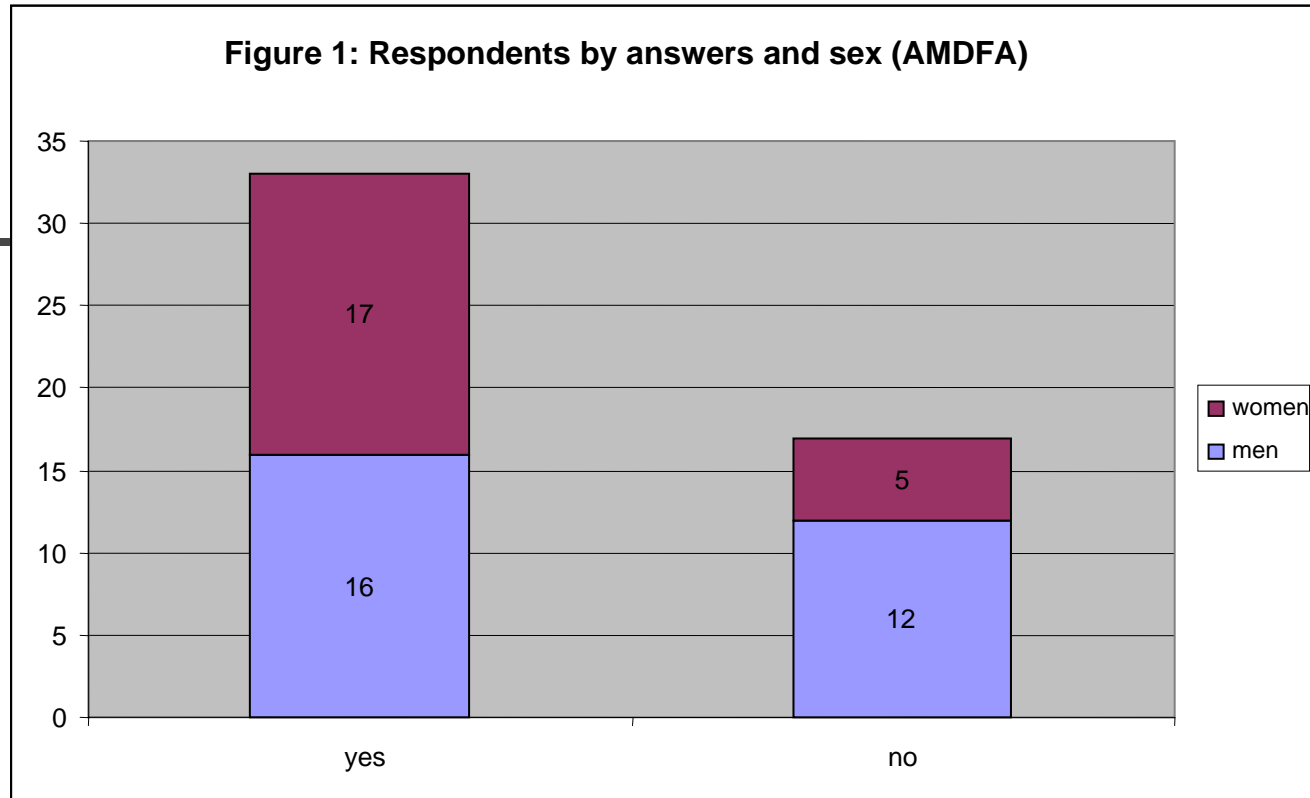
- Work with children between 3-5 years,
- To do their internship in kindergartens instead of/and in schools
- To choose a topic of their diploma paper, related to this age group



Collected data from the survey - R1

Academy of Arts by subjects	men	women	total
Pedagogy of teaching fine arts	8	2	10
Pedagogy of teaching music	9	8	17
Music pedagogy	5	5	10
Instrument art	6	7	13

Total: 50 students (28 men и 22 women) or 10% of the students studying the above mentioned subjects.



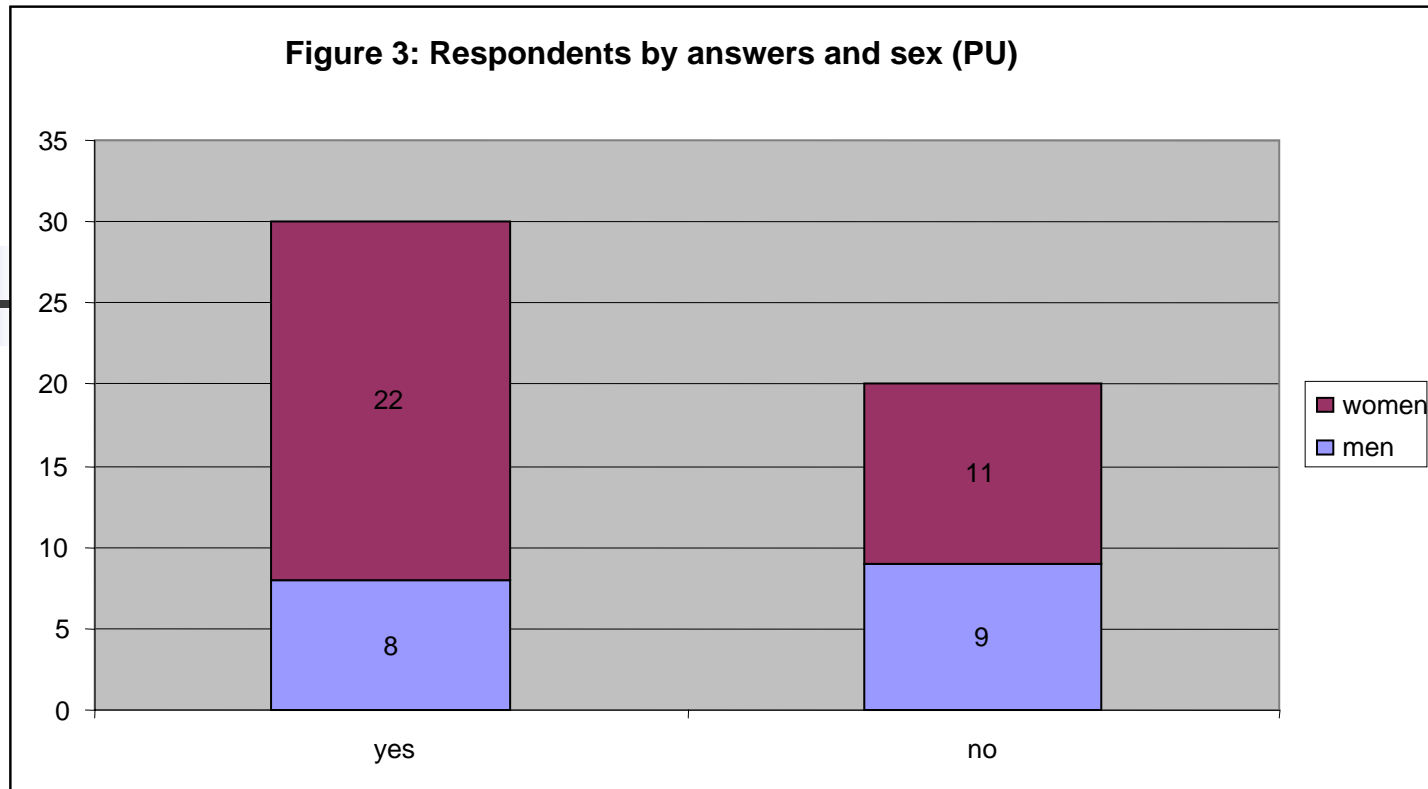
- Of all respondents 57% men and 77% women gave positive answers about the possibility to have their internships in kindergartens or to choose a topic of diploma paper related to the age group of 3 to 5 years.



R1 Data ...

Plovdiv University by subjects	men	women	total
English Language and Literature	6	16	22
Preschool Education and Foreign Languages	7	5	12
Russian and French, English or German Language	0	6	6
Pedagogy	4	6	10

Total: 50 students (17 men и 33 women) or 11% of all students in the above mentioned subjects.



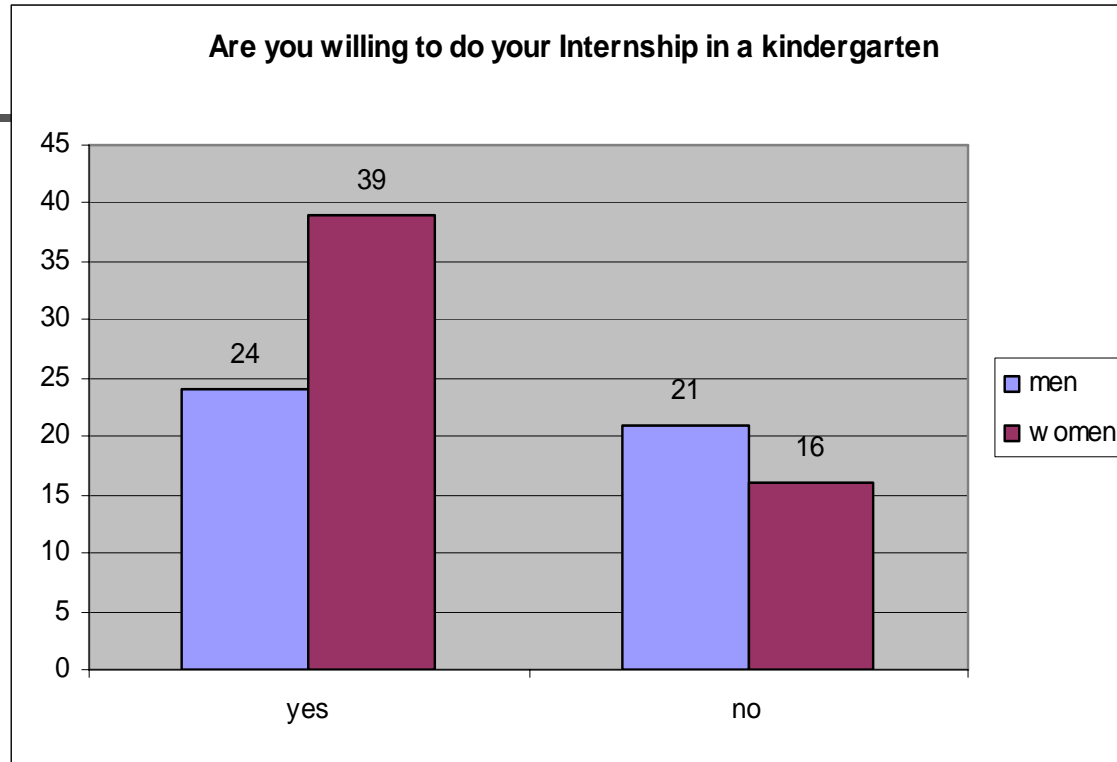
- Of all respondents 47% men and 67% women gave positive answers about the possibility to do their internships in kindergartens or to choose a topic of their diploma paper related to the age group of 3 to 5 years.



R2 Data

- Pedagogical qualification and/or willingness of students to follow research careers and their acquired knowledge and skills to work with different age groups, including children aged 3 -5.
- The internship is compulsory, not paid and it is part of the mandatory program of the students. It should be cover a certain number of classes.
- 61 public kindergartens.

Situation analysis– R3 (realia)



- In both universities 24 men and 39 women or 63 students in total are opened and interested in doing their internships in kindergartens.



R3 ...

- In general, students from Academy of Arts are more willing to teach in kindergartens – 57% of the men and 77% of the women interviewed gave positive answers;
- Regarding the Plovdiv University students these percentages are: 47% of the men and 67% of the women are positive to the idea.
- It is extremely important that from all respondents (45) men – 53% gave positive answers.
- The biggest interest shown by men studying pedagogy of teaching fine arts (6) and pedagogy of teaching music (5) at the Academy of Arts.



Advantages for the children

- They would have the possibility to communicate with more young people – men and women.
- They would have better access to education in foreign languages and arts (free of charge classes) which will develop their imagination and skills.
- This will contribute to the program diversity and improvement of the way of teaching.
- They will have the possibility to communicate with male teachers which will introduce the male role model in kindergartens.



Action plan

- Agreement between the Municipality of Plovdiv, Plovdiv University, the Academy of Arts and the kindergarten “Buratino” for students’ internships as a pilot initiative.
- Preliminary negotiations between the managing bodies of the universities and the kindergarten have already been held and showed positiveness and interest to the idea.
- Further development of the questionnaire for the survey of students’ attitudes.
- Analysis of the feedback information on the results of the intervention, provided by students and tutor teachers during the internships.
- Program change by including additional classes on arts and English language.
- Interviews with parents.



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