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Primary school teacher's feedback and experiences from tandem teaching of physical and sports education in Slovakia

Assist. Prof. Dr. Tibor Balga

Comenius University Bratislava, Faculty of physical education and sport, Slovakia, tibor.balga@uniba.sk

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Miroslav Sližik

Matej Bel University, Faculty of sports science and health, Slovakia, miroslav.slizik@umb.sk

Assist. Prof. Dr. Martin Dovičák

Comenius University Bratislava, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Slovakia,

martin.dovicak@fmph.uniba.sk

Assist. Prof. Dr. Iveta Cihová

Comenius University Bratislava, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Slovakia, iveta.cihova@uniba.sk

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Branislav Antala

Comenius University Bratislava, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Slovakia,

branislav.antala@uniba.sk

Assist. Prof. Dr. Gabriela Luptakova

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, Slovakia,

gabriela.luptakova@uniba.sk

Other Jan Macháček

National Institute for Education and Youth, Slovakia, jan@machacek.cz

Abstract: Physical education, a fundamental pillar of healthy child development, often faces the obstacle of teachers without specialised training in primary education. The "Coaches at School" programme represents an innovative approach to teaching physical and sport education at the first level of primary schools in Slovakia. The principle of the programme is based on the concept of tandem teaching, which consists in the cooperation of a teacher and a coach in conducting lessons. The aim of this study was to evaluate the feedback and experiences of primary school teachers, focusing on their perceptions of coaches' involvement in tandem teaching of physical and sport education within the framework of the "Coaches at School" programme in Slovakia. The research sample consisted of 465 primary school teachers in grades 1 to 4 in Slovakia who were involved in tandem teaching in the 2023/2024 school year. The data obtained by the questionnaire were processed by percentage analysis and the Chi-square (χ^2) goodness-of-fit test was used for statistical processing of the empirical data. Teachers rated the program as attractive to children, with a high level of active involvement of all children, including the less physically able. The presence of a coach had a positive impact on the quality of teaching, and tandem work provided several benefits, including increased safety and teaching efficiency. Future research should assess the long-term impact of tandem teaching on teachers' professional development, teacher satisfaction and ability to adapt to innovative pedagogical approaches. The study is supported by The Scientific Grant Agency of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic (VEGA) with the grant number č. 1/0127/23.

Keywords: Tandem teaching, primary education, physical education, coaches at school, teacher perception.