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Pupils' feedback on tandem teaching of physical and sport education in primary schools in Slovakia

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Abstract: Tandem teaching, as one of the dynamically developing didactic strategies, has proven to have a great potential in the process of improving the quality of the educational process. Our research was carried out within the framework of the national program "Coaches in School", which brings to schools an innovative approach to teaching physical education (PE) at the primary schools. Its main goal is to increase physical activity of children in the long term through the integration of sports coaches into the educational process at the primary schools in a tandem way. This study investigated primary school pupils' perspectives on the influence of coaches on PE lessons. The research was conducted as a multi-group pedagogical experiment in 236 primary schools in Slovakia during the school year 2023/2024. The experiment involved a total of 2343 pupils in 1.-4. grades. A total of 30736 PE lessons were taught in tandem. The research sample consisted of (EG, n=1878) pupils in the experimental group who attended tandem PE lessons with a coach and teacher and (CG, n=465) pupils in the control group who attended traditional teacher-led PE lessons. Data were collected via an electronic questionnaire and the relationship between group membership (EG/CG) and pupils perceptions was analysed using a chi-square (χ^2) test. Statistically significant differences were observed in several items of the questionnaire. The results of the research demonstrated the effect of tandem teaching with a coach on the formation of a positive emotional attachment to PE lessons, 86.7% of the pupils in the experimental group rated the lessons taught in tandem as very enjoyable and that they looked forward to the following lessons. The study was supported by the scientific agency (VEGA 1/0127/23) Tandem teaching of physical and sport education in primary school and its impact on motor, cognitive and emotional development of pupils.

Keywords: Tandem teaching, physical and sport education, primary school pupils, younger school age.