

Abstract

With the United States growing population we have seen an increase in diverse and multicultural communities, we see that reflection in many of our schools as the population within schools as well and with that we also see in increase in languages and different ethnicities and different cultural backgrounds. However, is the teacher population reflective of the student's changing population or is there a disconnect between the teacher's background culture, language and ethnicity and does this create a negative or positive affect on student-teacher relationships, does it create bias and is there an effect on academic progress. The study is a mixed-methods design collecting both quantitative data collected from multiple choice questions and Likert scales and qualitative data from questions that require a short response. From the findings of this study, we would be able to get an insight of secondary teachers in Eastern Washington on bias and student- teacher relationship building in multicultural and ethnically diverse classrooms.

Introduction

- Research Conducted has found that the school system Eurocentric values and lack of educator diversity in schools' impacts student-teacher as well relationships
- Research finds that educators who try to engage in a student's culture report stronger teacher-student relationships (Umarji, 2021).
- Research finds that bias tends to create behaviors in where students tend to not trust teachers (Tsai, 2022)
- Research finds that in cases teachers seem to form perceptions of a student whether it is formed through perceived stereotypes which then leads to teachers not having a high expectation of the students. This low expectation leads to students not reaching their full potential which leads to poor academic performance and widens the achievement gap (Akifyeva & Alieva, 2018).
- Biases and weak efforts to connect to students of culturally and ethnically diverse students can lead to increases in the achievement gap, poor academic performances and increase in risky behaviors for students who are also at risk (at risk being students who are at risk of dropping out, failing grades, increased absences).
- Research aims to analyze teachers' perspectives on what may contribute to certain issues and how teachers perceive their own ability at regulating biases and

Methods

- Created Surveys, 1 Survey taken before a test, 1 survey taken after the test.
- Surveys consisted of 11 questions each asking for demographics of the participants as well as questions regarding their own abilities to connect to students and recognize biases. They also had questions regarding the test they took.
- Submitted IRB with CITI certifications and completed surveys and was approved.
- Conducted convenience sampling to get participants for this study.
- Collected data that would be stored in a secure google sheets page.

Results

For this study I was not able to obtain enough samples. I was able to collect two responses which helped me ensure that the study works smoothly. Presentable data that I have shown is regarding demographics of the participants.

Figure 1.

Q1 Years Teaching Secondary Education

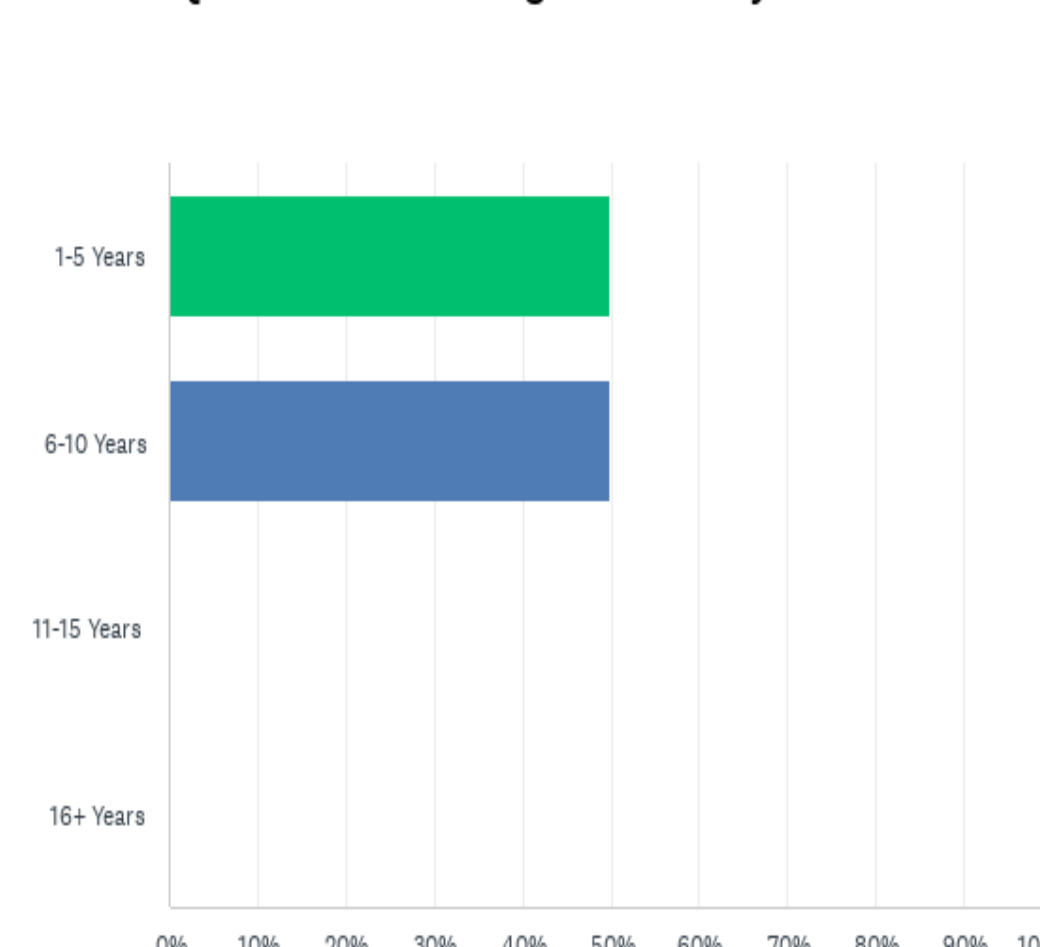


Figure 2.

Q2 What Gender Best Defines You?

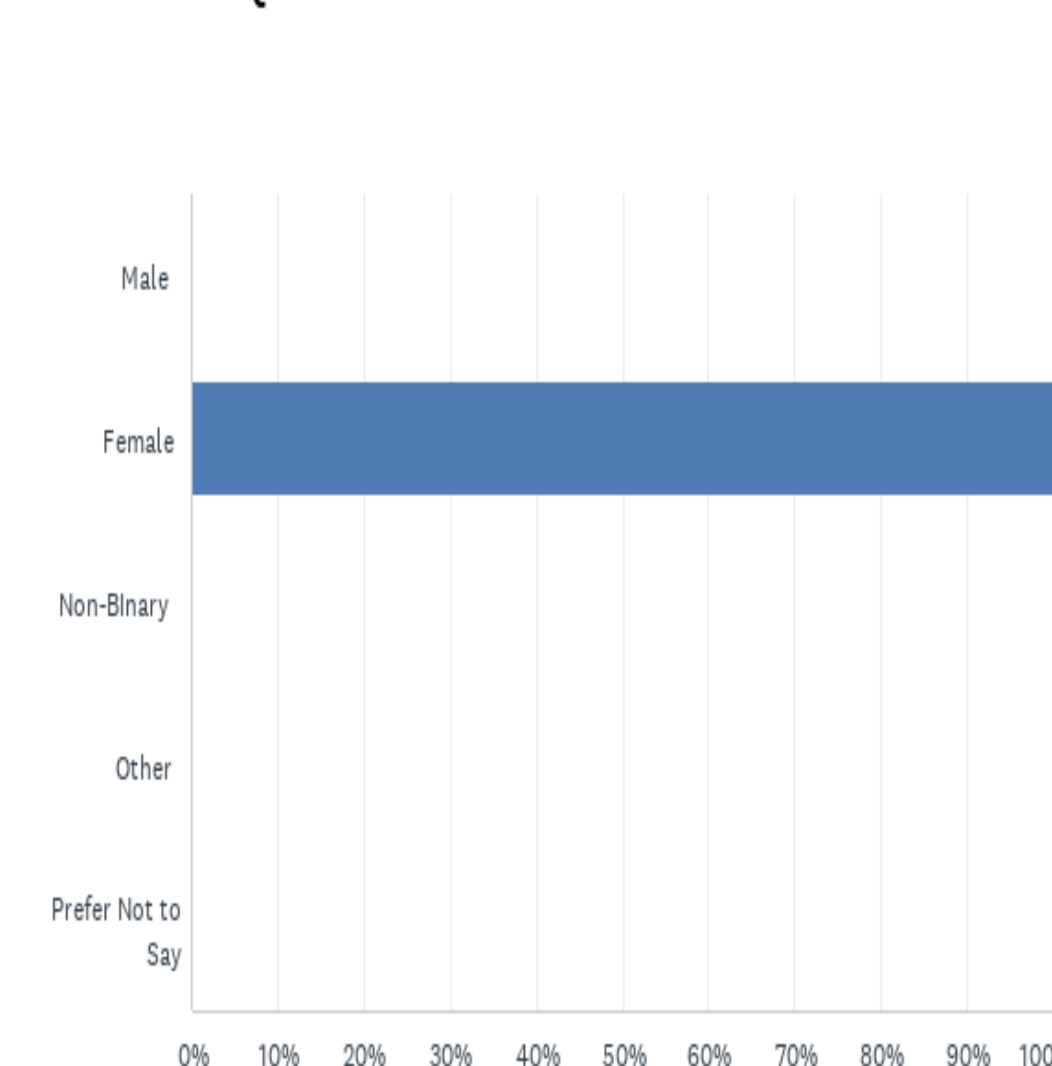


Figure 3.

Q5 What Race/Ethnicity Do You Best Identify Yourself With?

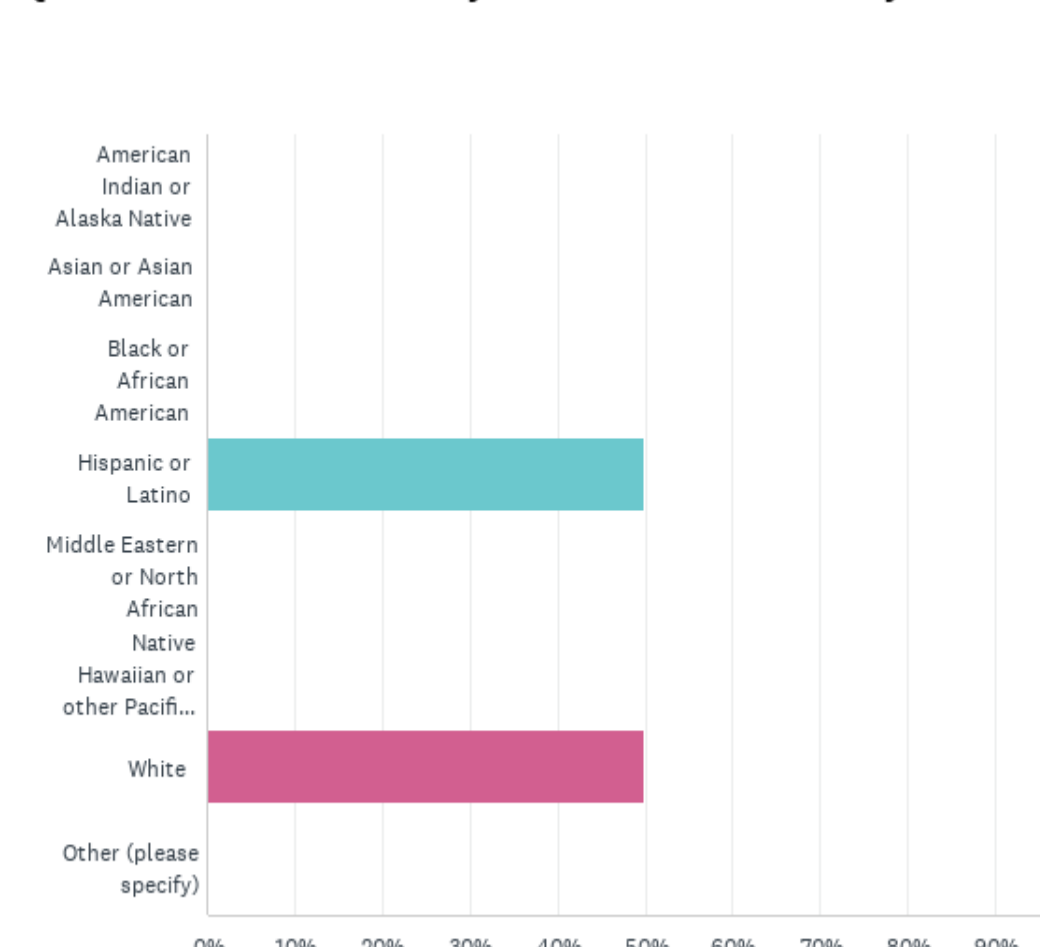


Figure 4.

Discussion

Despite not having enough data, I do plan to continue this study in the fall as I would be able to obtain further data from teachers, I also plan to expand the research to include schools from the west side of the state to see if there are any differences in between the perception of bias and student teacher relationships in two different regions of Washington State.

Acknowledgments

I want to give my mentor Sarah Johansson recognition for helping set up and polish my research study question and project as well as helping encourage me and reassure that I am heading in the right direction. I would also like to recognize Isaias Hernandez, Computer Science Major and Software Engineer for attempting to help me with a coding issue regarding setting up and individual IAT site and for helping create a data pipeline that helps organize and keep survey data safe.

References

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