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DAYS OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

CURRENT CHALLENGES IN PSYCHOLOGICAL
SCIENCE

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Niš, Serbia
23rd and 24th September, 2022



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18th International Conference
DAYS OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY 2022

Current Challenges in Psychological Science

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standing that the same phenomenon can have completely different meanings for different people. The analysis showed that the coronavirus has both negative and positive meanings for students.

Keywords: coronavirus, students, meaning, discursive analysis

TEACHERS' COPING STRATEGIES REGARDING THE PANDEMIC: CONNECTIONS WITH FEAR OF COVID-19 AND TEACHERS' MENTAL WELLBEING

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Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have put the schools and their staff in the frontlines, creating a long list of new stressors for teachers to deal with. Respecting the challenges of pandemic education, a group of researchers conducted a survey on a sample of 817 elementary school teachers with the aim of assessing teachers' coping strategies regarding the pandemic and their connections to fear of COVID-19 and their mental wellbeing. Data were collected during April and May 2021, through an online questionnaire. Coping strategies were measured with Brief-COPE, consisting of 14 scales, covering a wide range of coping strategies that can be grouped into approach strategies – those that actively work to change the stressor or accept its presence in one's life and avoidant coping strategies – that tend toward more dysfunctional responses such as denial, distraction, or substance use. Fear of COVID-19 Scale and Warwick-Edinburg Mental Well-being Scale were also used. Research results show that teachers use more actively approach strategies ($M = 37.52$, $SD = 6.01$), than avoidant strategies ($M = 23.41$, $SD = 4.75$) ($t(757) = 64.73$, $p < .001$). Fear of COVID-19 correlates positively with both clusters, but more significantly with avoidance strategies ($r = .46$, p

< .001) than approach strategies ($r = .25, p < .001$). Teachers' mental wellbeing correlates mildly positively ($r = .14, p < .001$) with approach strategies, but correlates moderately negatively with avoidant strategies ($r = -.31, p < .001$). These results confirm the negative correlations between avoidant strategies and teachers' mental wellbeing, as well as its stronger connection with the fear of COVID-19, suggesting that teachers' tend to choose avoidant strategies if they are more negatively influenced by the pandemic.

Keywords: coping strategies, teachers, fear of COVID-19, mental wellbeing, pandemic education

CULTURAL PLURALISM IN SCHOOLS – PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE⁶

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Although the importance of involving parents in the work of the school is recognized as significant, researches place little focus on the parental perspective. The aim of this study was to examine parents' opinions on the extent to which cultural diversity is supported in schools in Serbia and to determine whether there are differences in parents' opinions with regard to intercultural and demographic variables. The sample consisted of 128 parents (88% female), age 27–54 ($M = 40.75, SD = 6.02$). Instruments include Cultural Pluralism in School scale and questions for measuring intercultural experience and demographics. The study was conducted online. Statistical analyses include descriptive statistics and in-

⁶ The realization of this research was financially supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia as part of the financing of scientific research work at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy (contract number 451-03-68/2022-14/200163)

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