



Examining Compassion Fatigue and Compassion Satisfaction in Florida School-Based Agricultural Education Teachers



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Introduction

Compassion fatigue is a gradual lessening of compassion over time (Figley, 1995)

Compassion satisfaction reduces symptoms of burnout and compassion fatigue (Bakker et al., 2006; Figley, 1995; Stamm, 2002)

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Theoretical Framework

The researchers used Stamm's (2010) Professional Quality of Life and Bronfenbrenner's (1977) Ecological Systems Theory as models for this study

Objectives

1) Describe the level of compassion fatigue and compassion satisfaction in Florida school-based agricultural education teachers.

2) Determine the relationship between the demographic variables of gender, age, years of teaching, certification method, and the level of compassion fatigue and compassion satisfaction in Florida school-based agricultural education teachers.

Methodology

- Instrumentation used in this study consisted of the ProQOL scale (Stamm, 2010) and demographic questions
- The target population for this study was all Florida SBAE teachers
- The response rate for this study was 28.6% (n= 133)

Findings

- Participants had moderate amounts of compassion fatigue ($M = 48.12$, $SD = 11.69$) and compassion satisfaction ($M = 38.16$, $SD = 7.157$)
- Gender, Age and Years Teaching were significantly positively correlated with compassion satisfaction
- Gender, Age and Certification Method were significantly negatively correlated with compassion fatigue

Recommendations

- Recommended that further research is completed on the phenomenon of compassion fatigue within a broader sample of SBAE teachers
- SBAE teachers should receive education around the phenomenon of compassion fatigue