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Stance of Teachers in Utilizing Learning Resources in Kindergarten Education

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Abstract: This study delves into the daily experiences of kindergarten teachers in the Sto. Tomas West District of Davao del Norte, focusing on how they utilize various learning resources in their classrooms. Through heartfelt conversations with ten passionate educators, we sought to uncover their unique challenges and triumphs. One key theme that emerged was the vital role of accessing and having the right resources for their teaching. The teachers shared inspiring stories of their adaptability and creativity, often finding innovative ways to make the most of what they had. Their dedication to their students shone through in these narratives, demonstrating their commitment to effective teaching. Another important takeaway was the necessity of ongoing professional development and support. The teachers emphasized how crucial these elements are in helping them tackle their complex roles and enhance their teaching effectiveness. They understand that continuous growth is key to their success and the success of their students. As we listened to their stories, it was clear that these educators employ a variety of strategies to manage and organize their resources effectively. They acknowledged the growing importance of integrating technology and improving digital literacy—not just for their students' benefit, but for themselves as well. Many shared the value of building collaborative learning communities with their colleagues, highlighting how teamwork can bolster teaching practices. The teachers also provided valuable insights into their teaching philosophies, including how they evaluate and assess the resources they use. They shared their criteria for selecting high-quality materials, reflecting a deep commitment to providing the best possible education for their young learners. The findings from this study are significant, revealing the crucial support needed to enhance learning resource utilization in early childhood education. It's evident that better support systems, increased professional development opportunities, and effective resource management strategies are essential. By addressing these areas, we can empower kindergarten teachers to maximize their resources, ultimately leading to improved outcomes for their students.

Keywords: Kindergarten Teachers, Learning Resources, Kindergarten Education, Qualitative-Phenomenology.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In kindergarten, the tools and resources we use can turn learning into a thrilling adventure for young children. Think about the colorful building blocks that spark their creativity or the delightful picture books that ignite their imagination—these resources are essential for their growth. Even fun educational apps play a significant role in their learning journeys. They shape not only how children explore the world around them but also help teachers create engaging and dynamic lessons. As we strive to make early childhood education more responsive to the diverse needs of our little ones, it's crucial to discover effective ways to utilize these valuable resources.

This study focuses on the experiences of kindergarten teachers in the Sto. Tomas West District of Davao del Norte. By sharing their stories, we aim to highlight the challenges they encounter and the opportunities that can lead to better teaching methods. The insights gained from this research can

be instrumental in shaping educational policies and enhancing professional development programs, ultimately benefiting both educators and the curious young minds they nurture.

II. METHODS

To truly grasp what kindergarten teachers experience, we decided to immerse ourselves in their stories using a qualitative-phenomenological approach. We connected with ten kindergarten teachers from different schools in the Sto. Tomas West District, ensuring a rich mix of backgrounds and experiences.

During our semi-structured interviews, we really tuned in to their heartfelt narratives about their teaching journeys. They shared the daily challenges they encounter and how they creatively utilize various learning resources in their classrooms. We recorded these conversations and carefully transcribed them, enabling us to delve deeper into their ISSN No:-2456-2165

insights through thematic analysis. This reflective process uncovered significant themes and patterns, highlighting their unique perspectives and the incredible work they dedicate themselves to every day.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The recent study provides a heartfelt look into the everyday experiences of kindergarten teachers and how they manage their classroom resources. A key theme that emerged was **Resource Accessibility and Availability**. Many teachers, particularly those in rural areas, shared the challenges they face due to a lack of sufficient learning materials. This shortage often pushes them to tap into their creativity. One teacher remarked, "I often have to create my own materials because we don't always have what we need," which beautifully illustrates the dedication and inventiveness these educators exhibit.

Another significant theme was **Pedagogical Adaptation and Innovation**. The findings revealed that teachers are developing unique strategies to make the most of the limited resources available to them. This speaks volumes about their commitment to delivering quality education, even when the odds are stacked against them. It aligns with broader conversations about effective teaching, highlighting the resilience and creativity that characterize early childhood educators.

There was also a noticeable call for **Professional Development and Support**. Teachers expressed a strong desire for ongoing learning opportunities, echoing findings from previous research. It's clear that when teachers receive the right training and resources, they're much better equipped to innovate and make good use of what they have.

On the front lines of education, **Technology Integration and Digital Literacy** emerged as major concerns for many teachers. They voiced the need for proper training on digital tools that could significantly enhance their students' learning experiences. The study suggests that to genuinely improve resource utilization, educational leaders need to prioritize training and support for these dedicated teachers.

In summary, this study highlights the urgent need for improved support systems and resource management in kindergarten education. By ensuring that teachers have access to a diverse array of learning materials, offering targeted professional development, and fostering collaborative environments, we can truly empower these educators in their vital roles.

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