

Gifted Students in Teaching: Unique characteristics of a program for gifted students in a teacher training college - A mixed-methods research study

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This study examined the *Regev* gifted students' program at Michlalah - Jerusalem Academic College and explored the differences between students in the *Regev* program and students with similar talents who chose to study in the regular B.Ed. academic program. The research population consisted of 108 female students who were in first to third years of their undergraduate studies: 53 students participated in the *Regev* program and 55 studied in the regular academic program. We used four instruments: (1) a questionnaire on study motivation; (2) a questionnaire on teaching self-efficacy; (3) a questionnaire on study satisfaction; (4) a demographic questionnaire. Results indicate significant differences between the two groups on study motivation; *Regev* students attained higher scores on study motivation than students in the regular academic program. No differences were found on the teaching self-efficacy or study satisfaction variables. Thereafter we conducted a qualitative content analysis on data collected only from participants in the *Regev* program who responded to the question: "What was the main contribution of the *Regev* program to you as a teacher?" Five categories were identified, two of them ("widening of our horizons" and "professionalization of our teaching") characterizing almost all the students. We conclude with practical recommendations for future research on the *Regev* program at the Michlalah - Jerusalem Academic College.