

A Correspondence Article On “Survival of the Fittest: Resiliency of Private Schools Amidst the Challenges of the Pandemic”

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ABSTRACT

This correspondence article aims to reiterate the main points of the journal article, as it revolves around the objective of elaborating on the problems and coping mechanisms of a private school during the COVID-19 pandemic. This correspondence article also tests the research's claims, structure, and overall content to refine its components and guide readers on how to assess and critique a journal article. Overall, although the research article entitled, “Survival of the Fittest: Resiliency of Private Schools Amidst the Challenges of the Pandemic” was technically written flawlessly and was justified well, it is at fault by using the wrong research design and for its misalignment with its title and objective.

Keywords: Resiliency, Private Schools, Covid-19 pandemic, Education, Challenges

Introduction

Resiliency during the COVID-19 pandemic is a controversial topic in research. Considering that it is limited in volume, studies like this, especially in the context of educational stakeholders, should be noted as valuable. The journal article, “Survival of the Fittest: Resiliency of Private Schools Amidst the Challenges of the Pandemic,” examines how a private school has fared in financial control, instructional, and social mechanisms. It has aimed to shed light on the phenomenon to bridge the knowledge gap about the status of schools and their coping mechanisms during Covid-19. However, this does not automatically entail that the article should not be placed under review and constant refining. The following is a review of the journal article “Survival of the Fittest: Resiliency of Private Schools Amidst the Challenges of the Pandemic” by Jhanel Laigo.

Methodology

The study employed a qualitative approach, namely an exploratory, retrospective single-case study research design to comprehend the coping mechanisms of private schools upon addressing the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. This statement can be problematic, given that only one public school was looked into to explain a whole epidemic via generalization. When placed side by side with the title, it can be inferred that what is being placed under a microscope is the general population of public schools. Hence, a qualitative research design can be very problematic for this objective since the population lacks objectivity and insufficiency to make the findings valid in the most general sense. This could've been prevented if the expectation wasn't set of the private school, as a population, being plural.

However, it should be acknowledged that the author did mention that a quantitative research design could've given the paper more value. However, she failed to mention the aforementioned pointers by only stating that:

"Moreover, a quantitative approach may also be employed to determine the extent of practice of the identified coping mechanisms during the pandemic. This approach will generate quantitative data to support the qualitative data gathered in this study."

She only validated the quantitative approach as a supporting design, not the first choice. This can be troublesome, given the primary assumption of the study, as arrayed by the title and its mentioned objective. Not only that but there is an incongruence in the research's number of respondents. According to the following statement:

"The researcher conducted face-to-face interviews with the study participants."

There are plural participants. However, it was said in a previous statement that:

"The participant of this study is a private school principal with the pseudonym Principal A."

Despite these, there are also noteworthy instances in the research. For example, since the phenomenon of coping mechanisms during the COVID-19 pandemic is new, the exploratory nature of the research design was able to dig deeper and explore the issue at hand. It was also written that:

"This study utilized member checking and peer debriefing to establish the trustworthiness of the research findings."

Such is essential further to prove the validity of the research at hand. All the more, if it wasn't for the dissonance between the title, objective, and methodology, this study could be considered to have great potential.

Results and Discussion

The statistical methods of the research were all in accordance with the research design. If the choice was out of the question regarding the research design type, it could be pointed out that the researcher did everything needed to carry out the qualitative design. It is commendable that the researcher elaborates on the participants' specific liners. interview. This shows credibility, as it speaks on the source of the derived findings. This is already mindful of the methods it deployed regarding coding.

Content-wise and as it is relevant, the description of the challenges as well as the coping mechanisms of the private school was a nice touch. It offered the reader a positive impression, noting that the research was not just about the problem but also the solution. It is also safe to say that the findings were drawn in a manner that the stakeholders were minded, which was essential to get the overall context. Not only the principal was in focus, but also the teachers, students, and even parents. The research being well-rounded in this sense, offers a clear overview. In terms of the results and discussion, the researcher was able to justify her implications well via the results and discussion. It was claimed through this statement that:

"This situation implies that authorities should craft policies to address the concerns of private school teachers, especially on financial matters."

Such shows that there is an actual point derived from the discussion and that the research carries a valid implication on the phenomenon. Components like these, paired with the researcher's smooth and flowy writing style, made the study easy to understand. Not only that, but the writing style offered a balance between sophistication and simplification. Just enough for the readers to comprehend the content while keeping true to its brand as a journal article.

However, since the basic tenet of this review is hinged upon the inappropriateness of the chosen research design to the whole research, the achievement brought about by these components can be noted in vain. Based on the findings of this study, the journal article is essentially flawed because of the research design employed and the expectations set by its title and objective.

Implications

Purpose & Argument

The purpose of the article is to comprehend the coping mechanisms of private schools upon addressing the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, given that private schools are the most vulnerable institutions during said time. From a reader's point of view, the author laid the scene out in a way that the reader can easily follow. Throughout, the

logical sequencing of the context towards the main point was clear and understandable. The author was consistently on track in elaborating on the main point. She stuck by the central point until it was explained thoroughly. This was paired with her habit of consistently justifying her claims, despite a lack of reasoning and validation on specific areas of the research with that said and with allowance for mishaps in areas such as reasoning on data methodology and title phrasing, the discussion of the research throughout maintained good cohesion.

Although the abstract can be considered more prolonged than the average, it elaborated on the necessary pointers tackled in the research. On the topic of objective, all the more, one can see the value of knowing the coping mechanisms of private schools in dealing with challenges. This is with the assumption that the research can be an epitome in the given field. However, as is expected, there are still fundamental issues in the research that question whether or not it can fill a need in its field. On the contrary, conceptual-wise, the research is the first of its kind. This is true as there is little to no study on the coping mechanisms of private schools in the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Such a study can be an excellent focal point, especially in similar contexts, may it be considering another crisis or another developing country. This study can spearhead a discussion in its field with a little revision or modification.

Presentation and Organization

The study was entitled: "Survival of the Fittest: Resiliency of Private Schools Amidst the Challenges of the Pandemic." At first read, the impression given to the reader is that several private schools would be assessed to grasp their resiliency phenomenon during the COVID-19 pandemic. All the more, since it was preceded by the phrase "survival of the fittest," such had amplified the assumption that multiple schools were included. Not only that, but just as the title demanded, the study's methodology was expected to be quantitative and not just a mere case study. In short, what is being delineated here is the fact that the title is very misleading and confusing. It gave a generic impression when the study was intended to be a case study. The title must have sounded reasonable and presentable, but it didn't stay true to the expectations it had set for itself.

The author would have benefitted from appropriately titling the research in a manner fitting to its orientation. Even though there was an error in phrasing the title, the research was keen on staying true to its objective. It is also important to note that the author made it through to support her findings and claims with literature, making every claim more justified and valid. Throughout, the research was also sequenced and sectioned so that everything was kept in revolution to the main point of the study.

Conclusion

The research topic has great potential and is highly intriguing. Given how little is known about the process, it's possible that the research helped close the gap between what is observed and what can be verified. The research is far from flawless, though. A discrepancy exists between the research design, objective, and title. Even though this research has some positive qualities—such as the writing style and justification claims—it still requires improvement before it can be considered more credible. Subsequent investigations can be conducted for appropriate reasons after taking into account an alternative research strategy. Despite being published, the journal article "Survival of the Fittest: Resiliency of Private Schools Amidst the Challenges of the Pandemic" is far from ideal.

Contributions of Authors

The study's author did the entire research process, including data gathering, analysis, and work development. After researching "Survival of the Fittest: Resiliency of Private Schools Amidst the Challenges of the Pandemic," Ms. Jhanel N. Laigo, the author, evaluated and approved the correspondence article's final draft.

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Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that no conflict of interest is associated with this research study.

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