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The Factors Influencing Females' Participation in University Bursaries Physical Education.

ABSTRACT

The under-representation of females in University Bursaries Physical Education compared to their male counterparts was investigated to discover what factors influence females' participation. A variety of approaches including a postal survey, student and teacher perceptions questionnaires, focus group interviews and an informal discussion with physical educators were employed to examine the complexities and interpretations of Physical Education and sporting involvement as a physical phenomenon for females. An examination of the personal characteristics, needs, situational circumstances, the context and organisation of University Bursaries Physical Education revealed insights into the type of programmes that attract and cater for the interests of females. Results indicate that a 'gender-sensitive' and 'gender-fair' dimension was evident in those schools surveyed. Females believed that the curriculum was providing appropriate knowledge, skills, insights, attitudes and motivations that enabled them to develop their unique needs and abilities. It is anticipated that the information presented, the questions raised and the implications for future research and practice, will serve as catalysts for further discussion and research.
Preface and Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge and thank the many people that have contributed to this research. In particular, the schools surveyed in the postal survey, students and teachers who participated in answering the questionnaires, students and teachers who participated in focus group interviews and the group of physical educators who participated in an informal discussion. Without your co-operation and insights our research would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank my family for their constant interest, unstinting support, generous encouragement, patience and tremendous tolerance. Thank you to my friends and colleagues for their inspiration, friendship, helpfulness and understanding.

Special appreciation is also extended to my supervisors, Dr Don McAlpine and Roseanna Bourke for their combined and unique talents, invaluable assistance, advice and unfailing support. I have valued greatly the constant feedback and regular guidance.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Eileen Snell, Gael Head, Joan Gill, Ted Drawneek, Glennis Wallbutton, Wynne Sutcliffe, Robyn Laurent, Janette Blair, Elizabeth Spooner, Garry Willacy, Karen Sewell, Janiene Ashbridge, Charlotte Humphrey, Margaret-Mary Long, Carl Nugent, Jane Abbiss, and Massey University's Extramural Librarians for their many and varied invaluable and often indescribable contributions.

To Eunice P. Mahoney, I am indebted to you for nurturing and cultivating my Advanced Physical Education interests and energies.

It has taken a team to make a dream!

I sincerely thank you all.
# Table of Contents

Abstract ................................................................. (ii)
Preface and Acknowledgments ............................................ (iii)
Chapter One: Introduction .................................................. 1
Chapter Two: Literature Review ........................................... 13
   Programming for the Interests, Needs and Abilities of Females in Physical Education .......... 13
   Physical Education: A Socio-historical Overview ................. 15
   Health and Fitness .................................................... 23
   Socialisation Factors Influencing Participation .................... 28
   Gender and Equity for Excellence in Physical Education .......... 48
Chapter Three: Methodology ................................................ 68
Chapter Four: Results ...................................................... 96
Chapter Five: Discussion .................................................. 157
   Gender Issues in University Bursaries Physical Education ....... 157
   Factors Influencing Participation in UBPE ......................... 165
   Current Perceptions of UBPE ....................................... 180
   Benefits of University Bursaries Physical Education .......... 184
   Background Information and Experiences of Physical Education ......................... 193
   Limitations of the Study ............................................ 198
   Further Research ................................................... 199
References ................................................................. 203
Appendix A: Postal Survey Results ...................................... 239
Appendix B: Focus Group Questions ..................................... 244
Appendix C: Student's Questionnaire ................................... 247
Appendix D: Teacher's Questionnaire ................................... 260
Appendix E: Consent Form: Focus Group Interviews & Schedule ... 267
Appendix F: Consent Form: Pilot Testing Focus Group ................. 269
Appendix G: Consent Form: Student's Questionnaire .................. 270
Appendix H: Consent Form: Teacher's Questionnaire .................. 271
Appendix I: Focus Group Interview Questions Following Data Analysis .............................................. 272
Appendix J: Female Focus Group Interview Questions Following Data Analysis ........................................ 274
Appendix K: Informal Discussion Questions with Physical Educators ............................................ 276