

Turebekova Guljakhan Adilbekovna

Senior teacher, PhD Department of Preschool
Education NSPI named after Ajiniyaz

Abstract. In educational psychology, the relationship between educator and trainee extends beyond instructional delivery to encompass complex social and emotional dynamics that significantly influence learning outcomes. One of the key frameworks for examining this dynamic is sociometry, a method developed by Jacob L. Moreno to measure interpersonal relationships and group structures.

Keywords: psychology, educator, trainee, method.

INTRODUCTION

Sociometric analysis provides educators and researchers with insights into how emotional bonds, mutual preferences, and patterns of acceptance or rejection within learning environments shape the effectiveness of instruction and the overall climate of the classroom. Understanding the sociometric relationship between teacher and student is particularly critical in modern education, where student engagement, motivation, and psychosocial well-being are increasingly recognized as central to academic achievement. By identifying relational structures and emotional connections, educators can foster environments conducive to collaboration, trust, and individual growth [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sociometry, originally devised as a research and therapeutic tool, has found meaningful application in educational contexts by illuminating the invisible networks of attraction, preference, and social influence that operate within classrooms. It is not limited to mapping peer relationships; it also helps analyze the reciprocal perceptions between educators and their trainees. Teachers who are perceived as approachable, supportive, and fair often occupy central positions in sociometric maps, becoming nodes that facilitate positive group interactions. Conversely, educators whose communication is authoritarian or distant may find themselves at the periphery of classroom sociometric structures, weakening their influence and ability to cultivate a collaborative learning atmosphere. The sociometric approach thus provides actionable insights for improving teacher-student rapport, identifying marginalized learners, and tailoring interventions to build a more cohesive and inclusive classroom community [2].

Sociometric relationships between educators and trainees are the social connections and dynamics within the learning environment, particularly during practical training. These relationships can significantly impact the trainee's experience, learning, and professional development. Positive and supportive relationships foster trust, motivation, and a positive learning environment, while problematic relationships can lead to stress and hinder development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The sociometric relationship between educator and trainee can be analyzed through various indicators, including mutual choices, social preference ratings, and the degree of emotional proximity expressed by students toward their teacher. High sociometric status of the educator, characterized by widespread positive nominations from students, correlates with higher classroom cohesion, reduced behavioral issues, and greater student motivation. This status is often linked to the teacher's interpersonal competencies—empathy, active listening, consistency, and the ability to provide

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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constructive feedback. On the other hand, low sociometric ratings may signal challenges in the educator's communication style or classroom management, necessitating targeted professional development. Research demonstrates that students' emotional comfort and willingness to engage academically are strongly tied to their perception of the teacher as a trusted and supportive figure [3]. Thus, sociometric data serve not only as diagnostic tools but also as catalysts for reflective teaching practices.

A strong sociometric relationship between educator and trainee contributes to more than academic achievement; it supports students' psychosocial development and sense of belonging. Positive relationships foster intrinsic motivation by satisfying students' basic psychological needs for competence, autonomy, and relatedness, as outlined in self-determination theory [4]. Moreover, sociometric acceptance from the educator can buffer the negative effects of peer rejection, enhancing students' resilience and engagement. Conversely, when educators fail to establish positive sociometric bonds, students may experience feelings of isolation, anxiety, or diminished self-worth, which can impede both social integration and academic success. For teachers, sociometric awareness encourages reflective pedagogy, prompting adjustments in communication, feedback, and relational strategies to better support diverse learners.

Practical applications of sociometry in education involve regular assessment of classroom social dynamics, including teacher-student connections, through tools such as sociograms and preference surveys. These assessments allow educators to identify patterns of exclusion or tension, adjust their instructional strategies, and implement targeted interventions, such as group work or mentorship programs, to strengthen social cohesion. Additionally, sociometric insights can guide professional development, highlighting the importance of relational competencies alongside subject expertise. Schools that integrate sociometric evaluations into their educational practices often observe improvements in classroom climate, student engagement, and overall learning outcomes, as they create environments where students feel supported not only by their peers but also by their educators.

CONCLUSION

The sociometric relationship between educator and trainee is a critical yet often underappreciated factor in shaping the quality of education. By employing sociometric methods to understand and enhance these relationships, educators can create classrooms that are not only academically stimulating but also socially nurturing. Positive sociometric connections foster trust, motivation, and collaboration, while weak or negative ties can hinder both learning and personal growth. For modern education to meet the needs of diverse and dynamic student populations, it must recognize that the teacher-student relationship is not merely hierarchical but deeply social. Sociometry offers both a lens and a toolkit for building educational environments where every learner is valued, engaged, and supported.

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