



HIRING EXPERIENCES ENCOUNTERED BY NEWLY HIRED TEACHERS: BASES FOR INTERVENTION PROGRAM

MAE ANN A. BALUYOT

ESL Teacher

Talkstation

maeannbaluyot13@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research investigated the Hiring Experiences encountered by newly hired teachers, focusing on the bases for the intervention program, using a phenomenological approach. The participants of the study were fifteen (15) newly hired teachers from the Schools Division of Iloilo City. The data were collected using a researcher-made questionnaire through interviews. The results showed that newly hired teachers experienced an emotional journey through the hiring process, a prolonged path to employment, and a smooth and fair recruitment process. Participants also reported several challenges, including managing time and finances, the competitive ranking process, uncertainty and anxiety, and exhaustion from document preparation. Despite these difficulties, newly hired teachers showed various coping strategies. These included maintaining perseverance and a positive mindset, family and peer support, seeking information and guidance, faith and spiritual strength, and continuous professional growth. Overall, the results highlight applicants' challenges and the need for support. An intervention program was created to enhance hiring experiences.

Keywords: *newly-hired teachers, hiring experiences, challenges, coping strategies*

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INTRODUCTION

The hiring process is critical for teachers because it establishes the groundwork for their careers in the education sector. The demand for qualified teachers has steadily increased as the population and school expansion have grown. Despite the availability of teaching positions, many newly hired educators face significant difficulties during the hiring process and in the early stages of their careers.

For instance, research in the US has revealed that there are still a lot of teacher openings in several states, which present excellent chances for educators looking for work. Districts are actively hiring, offering clear career tracks, competitive salaries, and hiring incentives (Bouchrika, 2026). Moreover, Perrone, F., and Meyers, C.V. (2021) conducted an integrative literature review, analyzing 71 empirical studies on K-12 teacher hiring in the United States between 2001-2020, which highlighted the lack of systematic synthesis in this field and identified a significant knowledge gap as a result of sample limitations and methodological constraints. The authors emphasized the importance of conducting more comprehensive research to inform effective hiring policies and practices. Similarly, there is still a teacher shortage in many areas, along with a growing need for competent educators and persistent difficulties with teacher retention (Comai et al., 2025). This emphasizes how urgent it is for the education industry to implement efficient recruitment, hiring, and retention techniques.

The number of teaching posts available for hiring has been directly impacted by the ongoing teacher shortage in the Philippine educational system. More than 30,000 teaching

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posts were left empty nationwide in 2025, according to the Department of Education (DepEd), which resulted in frequent job openings, competitive hiring procedures, and a variety of experiences for recently hired instructors (Delon Porcalla, 2025).

Based on the researcher's initial observations, newly hired instructors frequently face a variety of challenges during the hiring process. Many of them endure unclear or uneven recruitment procedures, long and occasionally unpredictable processing timeframes, and difficulties obtaining suitable placements. These challenges are often compounded by financial concerns because teacher candidates must submit various documents, meet numerous requirements, and sometimes pay for extra placement, certification, and ranking. Magsambol (2025) reported that recruiting new teachers usually presents a number of difficulties, such as ambiguous protocols and protracted, erratic processing timeframes. Because the hiring process frequently requires several agencies and permissions, many candidates experience procedural bottlenecks that can cause placement decisions to be delayed for months.

Based on these observations, the researcher hoped to determine the hiring experiences encountered by newly-hired teachers as bases for intervention program.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Methodology

This chapter presents the research method, research design, participants of the study, data-gathering procedures, research instrument, validity of the research instrument, and data

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analysis. The purpose of this study was to find out the hiring experiences encountered by the Newly-Hired teachers as Bases for Intervention Program.

Research Method

This study employed a qualitative research method using a phenomenological approach. Phenomenology is an in-depth interview to identify and gather information based on the personal experiences and perceptions of the participants. In this approach, the researcher wanted to examine the hiring experiences encountered by the newly-hired teachers.

According to Singh (2023), descriptive research is an exploratory research method that aids a researcher in the description of a population, situation, or phenomenon. It can help in answering questions about what, where, when, and how, but not why.

Research Design

This study used a qualitative research design under a descriptive method that utilized a phenomenological approach. Phenomenology in qualitative research is defined by a focus on comprehending the meaning of lived experience from the individual's point of view (McLeod, 2024). It is well-suited for exploring the hiring experiences of the Newly-hired Teachers.

Descriptive survey research provides the researcher with relevant and accurate information. It engages the people who are at the center of the research objectives.

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According to Bhandari (2025), qualitative research entails gathering and evaluating non-numerical data (such as text, video, or audio) in order to comprehend ideas, viewpoints, or experiences.

Participants of the Study

The participants of this study were the Newly-hired public elementary school teachers from six (6) out of ten (10) districts of the Schools Division of Iloilo City who had three or fewer years of experience. In this study, there were fifteen (15) participants in the selected public elementary schools in six of the ten districts of the Schools Division in Iloilo City. They were given a questionnaire in which they shared the hiring experiences, challenges, and coping strategies they encountered during the hiring process in Iloilo City. The participants were selected randomly. Due to logistical limitations and the availability of respondents, these districts were chosen because of their varied school environments and ease of access.

The participants came from six of the seven administrative districts of Iloilo City, namely, City Proper, Lapaz, Montes-Lapuz, Mandurriao, Jaro, and Molo. City Proper was represented by three (3) newly hired teachers, La Paz was represented by three (3) newly hired teachers, Molo was represented by four (4) newly hired teachers, Monter-Lapuz was represented by two (2) newly hired teachers, Jaro was represented by 2 newly hired teachers, and Mandurriao was represented by one (1) newly hired teacher.

Sampling Design

A purposive sampling design was used in the study. Purposive sampling is a collection of non-probability sampling methods where units are chosen based on the qualities you

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require in your sample. To put it another way, purposive sampling selects units "on purpose", (Nikolopoulou, 2023). The main selection criteria are the Newly-hired teachers in the selected public elementary schools in Iloilo City.

Research Instrument

The research instrument used in this study was the researcher-made interview schedule. This is a set of predetermined questions designed by the researcher to guide the interview process.

In this case, three (3) questions particularly addressed the study's goal.

According to Rutledge and Hogg (2020), an in-depth interview is a type of qualitative research in which the researcher has close conversations with a limited number of participants. The researcher spends more time with each person and engages in friendly, conversational dialogue rather than asking numerous brief questions. Since most of the questions are open-ended, participants are free to explain on their responses. Gaining a thorough understanding of someone's thoughts, feelings, experiences, and opinions regarding a certain subject is the aim of an in-depth interview.

Validity of the Research Instrument

A panel of experts validated the researcher-made interview guide. All comments and suggestions relative to the validation of the tool were considered and integrated. The validation ensured that the questions would gather the needed information to answer the research questions.

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Data Gathering Procedures

The researcher proceeded with the research study after receiving approval from the adviser, the graduate school dean, the office of the superintendent of the school's division, the office of the district supervisors, the school heads, and individual participants. The researcher personally visited the schools, community, or place of convenience on the part of the participants to conduct the interview.

Before conducting an interview with the participants, the researcher asked them to sign a consent form or waiver pertaining to the study's conduct.

A phone with a voice recorder was used for the in-depth interview to fully capture the interviewee's statements. Following a number of interviews, the researcher combined all of the information gathered.

Data Analyses

The data gathered was analyzed using the thematic approach. This study adopted Braun and Clarke's (2006) thematic analysis as described in Stevens, (2024). Thematic Analysis is the process of finding, examining, and summarizing patterns (themes) in data. According to Braun and Clarke (2006), there are six steps for conducting thematic analysis: familiarizing yourself with the data, generating initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining themes, and producing the report.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This study was conducted to find out the Hiring experiences of the newly-hired teachers: bases for an intervention program in six (6) out of ten (10) districts of the Schools Division of Iloilo City during the school year 2025-2026.

This study used the phenomenological approach under qualitative research. This approach was appropriate because the researcher studied a group of people to gain a larger understanding of their lives or specific aspects of their lives, focusing on the study of practices.

The respondents of this study were fifteen (15) newly-hired teachers in six (6) out of ten (10) districts of the Schools Division of Iloilo City during the school year 2025-2026.

The research instrument utilized in this study was a researcher-made interview schedule.

A mobile phone with an audio recorder was used for data gathering and documentation, depending on the permission of the respondents.

A panel of experts validated the interview guide. All comments and suggestions relative to the validation of the tool were considered.

All permits, especially from the individual participants, were obtained to allow the researcher to conduct the study. The researcher personally went to the schools/community/place convenient for the respondents to conduct the interview.

Using the in-depth interview, a mobile phone with an audio recorder was provided to completely capture the interviewee's words. The participants were asked individually to

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provide their responses to the questions. The objective is to get the participants' experiences, challenges, and coping strategies about the study. The researcher consolidated all of the collected data after a series of interviews.

The information gathered was analyzed using a thematic approach.

The following are the findings of this study:

Based on the results of the in-depth interview, it was found out that the following are the hiring experiences encountered by the newly hired teachers in Iloilo City: (1) Emotional Journey of the Hiring Process, (2) Prolonged Journey to Employment, (3) Transparent Hiring, and (4) Navigating the Hiring Process.

Moreover, the following are the challenges encountered by the newly hired teachers during the hiring process: (1) Managing Time and finances, (2) Competitive Ranking Process, (3) Uncertainty and Anxiety, and (4) Exhaustion from Document Preparation.

In addition, the following are the coping strategies of the newly hired teachers during the hiring process in Iloilo City: (1) Perseverance and Positive Mindset, (2) Family and Peer Support, (3) Seeking Information and Guidance, (4) Faith and Spiritual Strength, and (5) Continuous Professional Growth.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, several insights were drawn regarding the hiring experiences encountered by newly hired teachers. During the hiring process, newly recruited instructors encountered both positive and negative experiences. Even before they start

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working there, their confidence and opinion of the organization are influenced by the emotional highs and lows. Hiring organizations can reduce tension and promote positive early involvement by providing reassurance and supportive communication. Despite challenges, many teachers persevere because they have a strong commitment to the teaching profession. Lengthy procedures may test resilience and have an impact on motivation, influencing how new instructors value institutional efficiency and job stability. To increase productivity and maintain candidate motivation, institutions should think about creating more transparent timetables and quicker feedback systems. While unclear or inconsistent processes can lead to dissatisfaction, transparency fosters trust and confidence in the organization. Transparent hiring practices positively impacted teachers' initial organizational commitment and sense of professional aspect. By outlining ranking methods, selection criteria, and decision-making procedures in detail, educational institutions should continue to place a high priority on transparent employment practices.

In addition, knowing that only a small number of applicants would be chosen heightened feelings of comparison and fear of being overlooked despite qualifications. This experience often challenges their confidence and tests their emotional resilience. Keep on giving clear explanations of ranking outcomes, and constructive feedback can help applicants better understand results and maintain motivation for future applications. It was also found that it was challenging to make plans for their personal and professional futures as applicants awaited the outcomes. Throughout the process, this uncertainty frequently had an impact on their motivation and emotional health. Providing regular status updates and transparent

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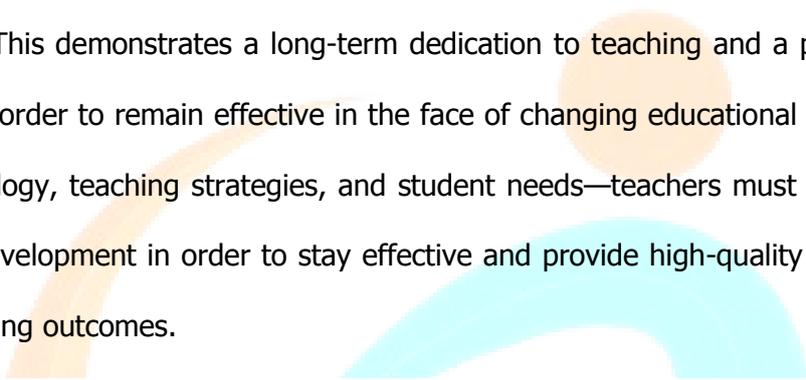
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timelines can reduce anxiety and help applicants plan their personal and professional lives more effectively. The preparation of documents was physically and emotionally exhausting. Adopting consolidated or standardized submission procedures and simplifying paperwork requirements may reduce application fatigue and boost productivity. Applicants were able to maintain their confidence and productivity by using the waiting period for professional development. This demonstrates a long-term dedication to teaching and a proactive career orientation. In order to remain effective in the face of changing educational demands—such as new technology, teaching strategies, and student needs—teachers must pursue ongoing professional development in order to stay effective and provide high-quality instruction that improves learning outcomes.



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Mario A. Cudiamat, Jesson L. Hero, Albert Bulawat, Cris T. Zita, Allan M. Manaloto, Jerico N. Mendoza



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