

Comparison of Education Attainment among Active Military & Veterans



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INTRODUCTION

Over the years the education attainment level of veterans has increased significantly. From 2009 to 2012 there was a 67% increase in veteran enrollment (Haerens, 182). It has been noted that there is a lack of research on degree attainment and financial aid as well as research regarding active military members pursuing higher education. This study aims to see if there are differences regarding the education attainment among active military and veterans.

BACKGROUND

- The Post 9/11 GI Bill saw increases in the aid that Veterans received to enhance their education.
- Military service impacts a person's life in all aspects. Due to the increasing level of education attainment for veterans, the researchers wanted to see if there was a difference between those who finished their service and those still active

RESEARCH QUESTION

- How does the education attainment level vary from active military compared to veterans?

METHODS

Participants:

- Participant A: Male, age 28, currently serving in the Navy as a Corpsman, been serving for 10 years
- Participant B: Female, age 24, served in the Navy as a Corpsman for 5 years
- Corpsman are medical personnel that serve in a variety of ways. Anything from administering vaccines to assisting in surgeries

Procedure:

- Each participant was asked the same set of questions, (FIGURE 1) regarding their background, service and educational goals.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Are you currently serving in the military?
2. Which branch did you serve or are currently serving?
3. What was/is your specific job?
4. How long have you served for?
5. How old were you when you enlisted?
6. What has been the most memorable part of your service?
7. What has been the most impactful part of your service?
8. Do you have any regrets about joining
9. What was the impact on your family life?
10. Did your service impact your career opportunities?
11. Why did you join the military?
12. What were your educational aspirations before joining the military?
13. What is your highest form of education?
14. Did you or do you plan to use the GI bill to fund your education?
15. Have you been made aware of Veteran Administration services and other benefits offered?
16. What was your education in the field like?
17. How do you feel about the treatment of veterans by society?
18. How do you feel about the treatment of veterans by the government?



RESULTS

- The study is still ongoing.
- Participant A is still currently serving
 - Enlisted at 18, served 10 years so far
 - Educational goals: Plans to enroll for a Bachelor's degree in five years to aid in getting a job after retirement (12 years from now). Plans to earn said degree while an active military member
- Participant B finished service last year
 - Enlisted at 18, served 5 years
 - Educational goals: Currently pursuing a Nursing degree and plans to use it to reenlist and make a career with the Navy.
- Due to the ongoing nature no concrete conclusions can be drawn.

DISCUSSION

- Both participants plan to continue in the medical field in some way.
- The timing of their education seems to be the main difference.
- Interviews showed that both participants believed experience gained from military could not be gained from any other profession.
- In order to evaluate participants educational goals, in 5 years participants will be re-interviewed.

REFERENCES

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