1106-VI-2589   **Budhinath Padhy*** (`budhinath@yahoo.com`), **Kenneth R Emo**, **Gemechis Djira** and **Amit V Deokar**. *Analyzing Factors Influencing Teaching as a Career Choice using Structural Equation Modeling.*

The purpose to the study is to analyze factors influencing students' perceptions of teaching as a career of choice using structural equation modeling with the goal of shaping a teacher education recruitment program. In this study, 458 students from a Midwestern university in United States responded to an online survey about career-related factors they *value*, their *expectation* that teaching would offer those factors, and any social influence factors that might encourage them to choose a teaching career. We have used Exploratory Factor Analysis to determine the underlying value-related, expectancy-related and social-influence-related factors. The effect of these exogenous latent factors on choosing a teaching career was examined. Results of our analysis showed that respondents' highly-valued career factors had no effect on their likelihood of teaching. Rather, respondents' expectation of teaching and a variety of social influence were the strongest predictors of increased likelihood of considering teaching as a career option. (Received September 16, 2014)