AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON THE RESEARCH TENDENCY OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS IN SOUTH KOREA

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Abstract

This study aimed to examine a research tendency through Master's and Doctoral dissertation in South Korea related to school counselors. In this study, school counselors were used in terms that included full-time and contractual counselors. School counselors are teachers who specialize in understanding students' daily psychological counseling, problem behavior and maladaptive counseling and establishing a prevention support system of fundamental reason of problem behavior for students. This is because their tasks required in school are similar. They were deployed to unit schools after Wee Project implemented in 2007 to ensure that students and all students experiencing poor learning and school maladaptation for having a happy school life. This study aimed to lay the foundation for improving and developing policies for improving the welfare and professionalism of school counselors, focusing on the subject of the degree thesis related to school counselors. This study conducted an exploratory study based on the year of publication and topics of the dissertation based on key words extracted from the data. The dissertations were published from 2010 to 2021 and were collected through Riss, a domestic database website in South Korea. This study focused on the frequency of emergence and Word Cloud which shows research tendency based on the year of publication analyzed by the frequency of emergency, title of the dissertation, and key words in abstract of the dissertation extracted from a file in MS Excel from the domestic database homepage. The analysis results of this study are as follows. First, the role and awareness of professional counseling teachers and Wee classes are required. Second, research was conducted to develop the capabilities of school counselors teachers working in the Wee class.it will serve as a foundation for improving professionalism, leading to the protection of ethics as a counselor working in the Wee class and ensuring the rights and welfare of counselors. In order to improve counseling capabilities, supervision and a certain amount of counseling practice are required in the process of training school counselors.

Keywords: Dissertation, exploratory study, school counselor, teacher.

1. Introduction

School counselors experience problems in qualification and training courses, unclear regulations on roles, problems with awareness and treatment, and problems with support systems due to lack of legal grounds (Kim, 2013). Research on professional counselors has been carried out steadily since the introduction of the system, and it has been actively conducted since 2007, when professional counselors began to be appointed and deployed (Nam, Park ,2017). Nam and Park (2017) analyzed research trends focusing on academic papers and degree papers published in 2005-2017 for professional counselors. In addition to the research topic, trends were analyzed using research methods and statistical analysis methods as the framework for analysis. However, Nam and Park (2017) did not look at research trends since 2017 because a total of 15 dissertations were conducted between 2018-2021. The researcher expects to analyze the results based on the 2010-2020 academic thesis and include the results of the study differentiated from Nam and Park (2017).

This work forms an analytical framework based on the research of Ahn (2018) and Kim (2018) who analyzed the network based on Word Cloud techniques. Word Cloud is applied to clusters, summaries, and information extraction of documents and is used as a method of content analysis (Park, Kim, 2021). This provides an intuitive understanding of the flow as it provides an economical and effective summary of the words in the content (Seo, 2015). Analysis using Word Cloud improves understanding of the phenomenon because key words that exhibit high frequency are visible (Kim, 2018). This study formed Ahn (2018) using Word Cloud as an analytical framework for reference. We wanted to look at changes in Ahn (2018) by showing the frequency of research trends by numerically or visually, focusing on key words

that have emerged frequently by borrowing from Word Cloud analysis methods. Finally, this research was intended to identify research trends through the analysis based on Word Cloud among network analysis methods as an analysis frame.

The following research questions were selected: First, what is the current status and trend of school counselors' research? Second, how about Word Cloud analysis between key words in school counselor research published from 2010 to 2021? In this study, through Word Cloud analysis, we analyze the research trends related to school counselors by year to identify changes in the overall trend flow. Based on Word Cloud analysis results, this study aims to explore the current status of school counseling in Korea compared to the school counseling system in the United States and Japan.

2. Theoretical background

2.1. School counselors and School counseling system

Wee project is an integrated support service network that supports students to have a healthy and enjoyable school life in conjunction with schools, education offices, and communities. In the Wee Project, students in crisis are the main targets, but they are also applying to ordinary students (Kim, 2012). The Wee class was named after emphasizing emotional and educational aspects to escape the negative image of the school counseling center and consisted of a space tailored to the student's emotions and culture. Through the Wee project, a school counseling office called Wee Class was implemented, which was led by the state to strengthen teachers' ability to guide students' lives and improve school counseling rooms. After the Wee project was implemented, most school counselors in Korea have been working in Wee classes. In this study, school counselors were defined as terms that included professional counselors and professional counselors. There are differences in their employment methods, but the work at the school site is similar.

Korea's school counseling system was established under local education offices and the Ministry of Education, supplemented by the advantages of the U.S. school counseling system and Japan's school counseling system. The duties and conditions of school counselors in the United States and Japanese school counselors are different. According to the Korean school counseling system, the conditions for appointment for professional counselors are met by obtaining first- and second-degree certificates for professional counselors through completion of teaching courses. Korean school counselors were appointed as teachers of comparison department. According to the U.S. school counseling system, most states selected qualified teachers as school counselors in the 1970s, but most states do not regulate teachers' qualifications and careers (ASAC, 2007; Lee, Oh, Seo, 2007 recited). In most cases, a master's degree is required to become a professional school counselor. In the case of professional school counselors in the United States, not only counseling and education, but also supervisory and management roles in each school shall be performed. According to Japan's requirements for school counselors, those who have completed graduate or Master's degree, have experience in psychological clinical or counseling for children, and those who graduate from the university require more experience (Kim, 2009). In fact, more than 90 percent of school counselors owned clinical psychologists (Park, 2005). Japan's school counseling system is similar to the U.S. school counseling system, in which private institutions unite to grant certain qualified people clinical psychologists to meet the requirements for school counselors.

3. Research methods

The analytical paper in this study is limited to the key words in the paper green, which reflect the core topics of the paper most intensively, and the words in the paper's topic. It focused on the thesis on school counselors published from 2010 to 2021. In order to extract analysis data, researchers searched RISS, a database operated by the Korea Educational Research and Information Institute, under the theme of "school counselor", "school professional counselor" and "professional counselor" in early March 2021. The researcher selected the master's degree papers as analysis papers because he believed that they included trends in the research topics that were spotlighted in the field of research related to school counselors. The researcher excluded academic papers from analysis papers because he believed that academic papers would sometimes be studied on the same subject as academic papers. A total of 510 "school counselors" were searched, 1,306 "school professional counselors" were searched, and 392 "professional counselors" were searched. Among the discovered dissertations, those that lack relevance to the subject were removed from the analytical thesis. Among the dissertations adopted as analytical papers, 27 are Master's dissertations and 23 are Doctoral dissertations are considered. In order to explore the research topic of the dissertation, key words recorded in the title and abstract of the thesis were extracted and analyzed.

Key words describing the research methodology were removed because they did not conform to the purpose of this research analysis. Key words such as 'school counselor', 'task', 'research', 'paper', 'exploration' and 'analysis' were excluded. The researcher judged that these words could have an effect on eliciting key analysis contents in the process of analyzing key words close to this research topic.

4. Results

Figure 1. Word Cloud of degree papers published in 2010, 2012.

In 2010, research was conducted to develop a curriculum organization system to foster professional counselors. It was intended to develop a compilation system through the establishment of educational goals, selection of educational contents, and the stage of the organization of educational contents. In 2012, research was conducted to ultimately improve job involvement by analyzing the relationship between interpersonal stress and burnout and job involvement experienced by school counselors. It emphasized the need for human environment and related policies, support, and training to improve the interpersonal relationship of counselors.

Figure 2. Word Cloud of degree papers published in 2013, 2014.

In 2013, students and professional counselors conducted research on the Wee Class program. Proposals are made to ultimately improve the awareness of counseling rooms and counseling programs through analysis. Research was conducted to organize the roles of school counselors and school social workers. Chaos existed because the role between school counselors and school social workers was not clearly established in the school. This research wanted to compare students and professional counselors' perceptions of Wee class programs to examine the contribution and continuity of Wee class programs in schools and come up with measures to promote them.

Figure 3. Word Cloud of degree papers published in 2015, 2016.

In 2015, research was conducted to develop and rationalize measures to explore the capabilities of professional counselors. It was intended to improve the understanding of capabilities by developing questions about the job performance of professional counselors. Among the personal characteristics of school counselors, the relationship between personal characteristic of counselors and the satisfaction level of counseling by counselors and clients was examined. Ultimately, the government wanted to develop measures for the efficacy of professional counselors. It was hoped that the process of forming professional identity of professional counselors and its main factors would be the foundation of programs for the development of current or prospective professional counselors. Research was conducted to develop supervision models according to the development stage of professional counselors. An analysis was conducted on the effect of school counselors' satisfaction with their duties on self-efficacy and exhaustion.

Figure 4. Word Cloud of degree papers published in 2017,2018.

In 2017, the government tried to build a theory on the process of forming identity through the process of forming a professional identity of professional counselors working in middle school. It was found that school counselors had difficulties experiencing from counseling experiences of loss and experiences of losing adolescence to consider in counseling. The Wee project policy was approached and evaluated step by step to prepare measures for the promotion of school counseling and the development of the policy. We studied the meaning of the experience of playing the role of a professional counselor working at Wee Class. We looked at the counseling stress experience experienced by school counselors. We looked at the impact of organizational fairness on the job involvement of school counselors. We looked at the impact of role conflicts experienced by school counselors on awareness of capacity. The meaning of the experience of recovery from exhaustion of professional counselors was studied. We looked at the effect of self-resilience of school counselors on job stress and psychological well-being.

Figure 5. Word Cloud of degree papers published in 2019, 2020, 2021.

It was intended to explore the development process of professional counselors and prepare methods for their development. By describing the experience of working as a counselor at a school that experienced the Ferry Sewol incident, which was socially issued event in Korean society, the direction of the counselor's intervention, knowledge, and attitude in the disaster site was presented. The impact of management on the quality of life on the job environment, efficacy, and secondary trauma of school counselors was studied. It laid the foundation for enhancing the level of indirect trauma management experienced by counseling. We studied the supervision experience of professional counselors. It was intended to provide information for the education and training of professional counselors. It was intended to present policy implications by studying professional counseling teachers to form their expertise in school counseling. The types and characteristics of communication were studied in the ethical conflict experienced by professional counselors during school counseling. We looked at changes in self-development activities after recovery and recovery from exhaustion experienced by professional counselors. We studied the experiences faced by professional counselors and looked at the impact on the counselors' growth process. The effectiveness of emotional intelligence-based art education programs developed in collaboration with professional counselors was studied. In order to improve the National Standards for Psychological Counseling (NCS), professional counselors' job requirement was studied. We looked at the effects of job stress and emotional harmony of school counselors on burnout.

5. Conclusion

The results of the analysis through Word Cloud and its implications are as follows.

First, it is required to improve the role of school counselors and awareness of Wee classes. According to Word Cloud analysis results of the degree papers published in 2013 and 2014, the number of human resources involved in school counseling varies from school professional counselors, professional counselors, social workers, school counselors, career counselors, and community education experts. The involvement of such diverse groups of experts can obscure the identity of school counseling (Kim, Cho, 2011). This can negatively affect the role and job selection of school counselors and the strengthening of professionalism (Korea Teachers' University Industry-Academic Cooperation Group, 2014). Proposals are made to ultimately improve the awareness of the counseling room and the counseling program (Kim, 2013; Shin, 2013). Efforts were required to improve and develop the Wee project policy in its activation. School

counselors in Korea are burdened with classes because they are responsible for teaching in schools. They experience skepticism in my position as a school counselor, as they have to fulfill various tasks such as administrative work and counseling in school. The boundary between stress and work experienced a teacher at school is collapsing. As a result, they are experiencing confusion and stress about their duties.

Second, research was conducted to develop the capabilities of professional counselors working in Wee class. Studies that analyzed affecting professionalism, such as job stress, have been carried out steadily. Research was also conducted to prevent burnout of professional counselors that could negatively affect capacity development. This study expects these studies to be the basis for improving professionalism and to protect ethics as counselors working in Wee classes and help ensure the rights and welfare of clients.

Third, according to the school counseling system in the United States and Japan, professionalism was emphasized as a requirement for counselors. In the United States and Japan's school counseling system, those who met the qualifications of clinical psychologists were selected. In comparison, teachers were selected through the teacher appointment system in Korea and based on education in addition to counseling, which is a major subject. In addition to counseling, the Korean system required academic knowledge of overall education. Those who possess national qualifications, such as certificates for counselors for youths and clinical psychologists or others issued by private institutions such as the Korea Association of Counselors meet the conditions, but candidates for school counselors' counseling practice was not sufficient (Kim, 2013). They emphasized that they have to take more professional counseling skills. In order to take them, more supervision and counseling practice are required in the school counseling training course to improve counseling skills.

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