RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNIVERSITY CLIMATE AND SELF-EFFICACY OF COUNSELING STUDENTS IN SELECTED MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES

ELHAM BAGHERI

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNIVERSITY CLIMATE AND SELF-EFFICACY OF COUNSELING STUDENTS IN SELECTED MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES

By

ELHAM BAGHERI

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirement for degree of Master of Science

March 2012
DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my family whose support has carried me here. To my mother and father whose have shown unconditional love and were my first and most inspiration to further my studies and also to all my siblings.
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for degree of Master of Science

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Chairman : Wan Marzuki Bin Wan Jafar, PhD
Faculty : Educational Studies

Self-efficacy of counsellors has been one of the main focuses of counselling research due to the influential impact of counsellors’ perceptions towards their counselling abilities and subsequently their counselling effectiveness. Hence, developing counselling self-efficacy among university counselling students as prospective counsellors have attracted researchers' attention based on the assumption that counselling self-efficacy can be developed and improved through counsellor education and training programs. The main purpose of the study is to determine whether there is a relationship between university climate and counselling students' self-efficacy.

This study employed a correlation and descriptive research design. The sample consists of one hundred and nine final year undergraduate counselling students who were undergoing their counselling programs from University Putra Malaysia (UPM),
University of Malaya (UM), and Islamic Science University Malaysia (USIM) were randomly selected.

The research questionnaire consists of six main sections. The first section is about demographic information; the second section consists of Counsellor Activity Self-Efficacy Scales to measure students’ counselling self-efficacy (CASES, Lent et al., 2003); the third section consist of university climate questionnaire, which contained fourteen items of university environment (University Environment, Gloria et al., 1996), nineteen items of university facilities (University Facility, Poh & Anion et al., 2006), seventeen items of friends social support (Gloria et al., 1999), and the last five items were Mentoring Scale developed by Gloria (1993) to measure supervision.

The data was analyzed using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and the Multiple Linear Regression. The result showed that there was a significant relationship between university environment and counselling student’s self-efficacy, \( r = .92(p<0.05) \). Furthermore, there was a significant relationship between friends social support and counselling student’s self-efficacy, \( r = .85, p<0.05 \). The finding also revealed a significant relationship between supervision and counselling student’s self-efficacy, \( r = .85, p<0.05 \). The significant relationship was found between university facilities and counselling student’s self-efficacy, \( r = .90, p<0.05 \). The multiple linear regression analysis showed that counselling students’ self-efficacy is explained 93% by the component of university climate, \( R^2 = 0.93, F(1,108) = 375.68, p< 0.05 \). These results
indicated that overall students’ self-efficacy can be predicted by the proposed multiple regression model.

The findings indicate that university climate is a significant contributing factor in developing university student’s counselling self-efficacy. This is where attention should be given in order to improve the possibility of students’ success in the counselling profession. The finding also gives useful implications for counselling self-efficacy theory development, policy makers and counsellor educators.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai
memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

HUBUNGAN DI ANTARA IKLIM UNIVERSITI DAN EFIKASI SWADIRI
PELAJAR KAUNSELING DALAM UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERPILIH

Oleh

ELHAM BAGHERI

Mac 2011

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Efikasi swadiri kaunselor merupakan salah satu tumpuan penyelidikan kaunseling kerana ia memberi kesan kepada persepsi kaunselor terhadap kebolehan dan keberkesanan kaunseling mereka. Oleh itu, pembangunan efikasi swadiri kaunseling di kalangan pelajar kaunseling universiti sebagai bakal kaunselor menarik perhatian penyelidik berdasarkan andai bahawa efikasi swadiri kaunseling boleh dibina dan ditingkatkan dengan penglibatan dalam pendidikan kaunselor dan program-program latihan. Tujuan utama kajian ini ialah untuk mengenal pasti sama ada terdapat hubungan di antara iklim universiti dengan efikasi swadiri pelajar kaunseling.

Rekabentuk kajian ini merupakan kajian korelasi dan deskriptif. Sampel kajian terdiri daripada seratus sembilan orang pelajar ijazah tahun akhir yang sedang mengikuti program kaunseling di Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Malaya (UM) dan Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) yang dipilih secara rawak.
Soal selidik penyelidikan terdiri daripada enam bahagian utama. Bahagian pertama berkenaan dengan maklumat demografi; bahagian kedua terdiri daripada *Counsellor Activity Self-Efficacy Scales* (CASES, Lent et al., 2003) untuk mengukur efikasi swadiri pelajar kaunseling; bahagian yang ketiga terdiri daripada soal selidik yang berkaitan dengan iklim universiti yang mengandungi empat belas item berkenaan dengan persekitaran universiti (University Environment, Gloria et al., 1996), sembilan belas item berkenaan dengan kemudahan universiti (University Facility, Poh Ju Peng et al., 2006), tujuh belas item terdiri daripada sokongan sosial rakan (Gloria et al., 1999), dan lima item terakhir terdiri daripada *Mentoring Scale* yang dibangunkan oleh Gloria (1993) untuk mengukur penyeliaan.

Data dianalisis menggunakan ujian *Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient* dan *Multiple Linear Regression*. Hasil kajian menunjukkan terdapat hubungan yang signifikan di antara persekitaran universiti dan efikasi swadiri pelajar kaunseling, \( r = .92 \), (p<0.05). Seterusnya, hasil kajian juga menunjukkan terdapat hubungan yang signifikan di antara sokongan sosial rakan dan efikasi swadiri pelajar kaunseling, \( r = .85 \), p< 0.05. Hasil kajian juga mendapati bahawa terdapat hubungan yang signifikan di antara penyeliaan dan efikasi swadiri pelajar kaunseling, \( r = .85 \), p< 0.05. Dapatkan kajian menunjukkan terdapat hubungan yang signifikan di antara kemudahan universiti dan efikasi swadiri pelajar kaunseling, \( r = .90 \), p< 0.05. Analisis *Multiple Linear Regression* menunjukkan bahawa 93% efikasi swadiri pelajar kaunseling diramalkan oleh komponen iklim universiti, \( R^2=0.93 \), F(1,108) =375.68, p< 0.05. Dapatkan kajian ini menunjukkan...
bahawa efikasi swadiri pelajar keseluruhan boleh diramalkan oleh model *Multiple Regression* yang dicadangkan.

Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa iklim universiti merupakan faktor yang signifikan yang menyumbang kepada perkembangan efikasi swadiri kaunseling dalam kalangan pelajar kaunseling di universiti. Di sinilah perhatian perlu diberikan dalam meningkatkan kebarangkalian kejayaan pelajar dalam profesion kaunseling. Dapatan kajian juga memberikan implikasi yang berguna untuk perkembangan teori efikasi swadiri kaunseling, pembuat polisi dan pendidik kaunselor.
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This project would have been an impossible task without the help and support I received from so many quarters. First and foremost I give thanks to God for keeping me focused to the end. I would never have made it this far if it was not for the sustained encouragement and confidence expressed by my advisors that I could do it. In this, I sincerely appreciate Dr. Wan Marzuki whose patience and constant feedback has been inspirational in finalizing this study and my co-members Dr. Maznah Baba whose invaluable contributions and suggestions made this study possible. I thank you most sincerely.

I have watched my family quietly suffer as I became more and more engrossed in my studies. To my mother whose prayers have kept me going and my father who was the first inspiration for me to further my studies up to this level. I recognize how hard this past three years have been on them in particular my siblings. Thank you for your patience. This is our achievement. I would never have completed this work without the encouragement and support I received from my family. Thank you all.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 28 March 2012 to conduct that final examination of Elham Bagheri on her thesis entitled “Relationship between University Climate and Self-Efficacy of Counseling Students in Selected Malaysian Universities” in accordance with the Universities and University colleges Act 1971 and the constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106]15 March 1998. The committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of science.

Members of the Thesis Examination Committee were as follows:

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Date: 28 June 2012

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement of the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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**Date:**
DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

ELHAM BAGHERI

Date: 28 March 2012
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