RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPIRITUALITY AND MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCY FACTORS AMONG UNDERGRADUATE COUNSELLING STUDENTS IN MALAYSIA

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By

AMIRREZA AMOUHA

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

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Abstract of this thesis presented to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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July 2013

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Working with religion and spirituality is often problematic in counselling practice due to counsellors’ competency issues and their own cultural and spiritual history which do not make them expert in the field. Especially, there are not enough educational courses regarding preparing counselling students for applying spirituality in counselling practice. This study examines a relationship between spirituality factors (spiritual awareness, spiritual disappointment, spiritual narcissism, spiritual realistic acceptance, and spiritual instability) and multicultural counselling competency factors (multicultural counselling awareness, multicultural
counselling knowledge and multicultural counselling skills) among undergraduate counselling students in Malaysia. And as an empirical research this study randomly surveyed 119 final-year counselling students (27 males and 92 females) at three Malaysian universities (UM, UPM and USIM), to find their self-ratings on spirituality factors by Spiritual Assessment Inventory (SAI) questionnaire with 48 items and multicultural competency factors by Multicultural Counselling Competencies (MCCs) questionnaire with 40 items. Eight significant low and moderate positive correlations were found, but four of them indicated medium and large effect size. The results imply the need of an academic training and a course to prepare competent counsellors in regard to the demanding role of spirituality in counselling practice within the diverse culture of Malaysia.
Hubungan antara faktor spiritualiti dan faktor kompetensi pelbagai budaya dalam kalangan pelajar pra siswazah kaunseling di Malaysia

Oleh

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July 2013

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Mengurus aspek spiritualiti dan keagamaan dalam amalan kaunseling selalunya sukar kerana isu kepakaran kaunselor dan sejarah budaya dan spiritual mereka, yang tidak membuatkan mereka menjadi pakar dalam bidang ini. Terutamanya tidak terdapat cukup kursus pengajian yang menyediakan pelajar kaunseling untuk mengaplikasi spiritualiti dalam amalan kaunseling. Kajian ini meneroka hubungan antara faktor spiritualiti (kesedaran spiritual, kekecewaan spiritual, narsisme spiritual, penerimaan realistik spiritual, dan ketidakstabilan spiritual) dan faktor kompetensi kaunseling pelbagai budaya (kesedaran kaunseling pelbagai budaya, pengetahuan kaunseling pelbagai budaya dan kemahiran kaunseling pelbagai
budaya) dalam kalangan pelajar pra siswazah kaunseling di Malaysia. Sebagai satu penyelidikan emperikal, kajian ini meninjau secara rawak seramai 119 pelajar kaunseling tahun akhir (27 lelaki dan 92 perempuan) di tiga buah universiti di Malaysia (UM, UPM dan USIM), untuk melihat skor spiritualiti mereka dengan menggunakan soal selidik Spiritual Assessment Inventory (SAI) yang mengandungi 48 item, dan skor faktor kompetensi pelbagai budaya menggunakan soal selidik Multicultural Counselling Competencies (MCCs) yang mengandungi 40 item. Hasil menunjukkan terdapat lapan korelasi bersifat positif sederhana bersignifikan rendah, namun empat darinya menunjukkan saiz kesan yang sederhana dan besar. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan keperluan kepada latihan akademik dan kursus untuk menyediakan kaunselor yang kompeten dari segi peranan spiritualiti dalam praktis kaunseling dalam budaya yang berbagai di Malaysia.
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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 24-7-2013 to conduct the final examination of Amirreza Amouha on his thesis entitled "Relationship Between Spirituality And Multicultural Competency Factors Among Undergraduate Counselling Students In Malaysia" 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.

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AMIRREZA AMOUHA (GS27738)
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