Abstract

As members of a “helping profession” it is essential that we as practitioners are both aware of, and adaptable to, the needs of clients belonging to cultures other than our own. Failure to incorporate cultural considerations into our therapy may lead to poor client outcomes. Therefore, this study utilized the Cross-Cultural Adaptability Inventory (CCAI) to examine the cultural adaptability of 18 continuing graduate students enrolled in the communication disorders and sciences program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The CCAI is a culture-general standardized self-assessment instrument used to assess “one’s ability to adapt to any culture,” which consists of 50 items used to measure the cross cultural adaptability of participants on four subscales: emotional resilience, flexibility/openness, perceptual acuity, and personal autonomy. The data was analyzed using SPSS and generated descriptive statistics on the cultural adaptability as it relates to participants’ age, ethnicity, education status and participation in the teacher education program. The overall score of the SIUC participants was lower than the norm group of the CCAI which indicated that they are not as adaptable to cross cultural interactions.

Problem

1. According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) demographic profile sheet, ASHA’s members consist of Whites 92.8%, while ethnic minorities represent approximately 8% of its total members
2. Women represent approximately 93.9% of ASHA’s members, while men represent 6.1%

Participants

Research Questions

What is the overall cross cultural adaptability of communication disorders and sciences graduate students?

Do participants’ age, ethnicity, education, and participation in the Teacher Education Program affect graduates’ cultural adaptability?

Methods

Instrument

CCAI Inventory (Kelley&Meyers, 1999)

• 50 item instrument, 6-point scales

Emotional Resilience- the extent to which a person can regulate his or her emotions in a new or changing environment

Flexibility/Openness- the extent to which a person enjoy interacting with people who think differently from themselves

Perceptual Acuity- the extent to which a person is attentive to verbal and non verbal behaviors

Personal Autonomy- the extent to which a person is not overly dependent on cues from the environment for their identity

Procedure

• Hand scored inventory

• SPSS was used for data analysis

Results

Scales

ER: 0-108
FO: 0-90
PA: 0-42
PAC: 0-60

• Scores were relatively balanced in all four areas of the CCAI

Future Studies

• Larger Sample Size

• Faculty/Practicing Speech Language Pathologist

• Undergraduates vs. Graduates

References


Ananreh-Frimpong, O., Batancourt, R. J., Emilio Carrillo, J., & Green, R. J. (2003). Defining Cultural competence: a practical framework for addressing racial/ethnic disparities in health and health care. Public Health Reports, 118