

Abstract

This study aimed at examining the effect of peer counselors' training on empathy skill. 24 senior high school students were selected in the study. These students were randomly selected into the experimental group and the control group. The students in the experimental group participated in a seven-week, each week three hours' peer counselors' training program which stressed on empathy skills of counseling including attending behavior, questioning, paraphrasing or reflection of content, reflecting of feeling and summarization. The students were trained mainly through lecture, demonstration, discussion and practicing these five counseling skills. The students in the control group did not received counseling training but they were participated in group-activities such as learning how to lead to sing songs and play games. They were also participated in the pre-test and post-test of empathy skills such as the students in the experimental group did. The measurement used in this study included: one student acted as counselor, the other student acted as counselee. They held a face-to-face counseling session. Their interview was taped as a record and was sent to two professional raters to rate their empathy level. The rater used Ivey's Speakers' Focus Responses Rating Sheet and Carkhuff's Empathy Rating Scale to rate the empathy level of the students. The result indicated: there were significant differences between experimental group and control group on empathy skill. The counselor' training program of empathy skill had a significant effect on the empathy skill of the students. The senior high school students could also trained in empathy skill.