WHAT AFFECT CAREER DECISION-MAKING SELF-EFFICACY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN KOREA?

Yuan Ying Jin
Korea University

WHY THIS RESEARCH TOPIC IS IMPORTANT?

- According to recent statistics (Ministry of Education in South Korea, 2015), there are a total of 61,332 international students enrolled in higher education institutions in Korea. This is about 2.5% of the entire population of Korean students (3,608,271) enrolled in higher education. In addition, the population of international students in Korea has increased over 7 times since 2003.
- Despite an increasing need for research on international students’ career development, there has been a lack of studies conducted on these issues.
- There have been just two studies, one of which indicated acceptance of Korean culture (Jang, 2012) and the other length of stay (Cui, 2011) as predictors of Career Decision-Making Self-efficacy for international students in Korea.
- Acceptance of Korean culture is higher in female groups than the male groups, also those who had been in Korea for less than 2 years were more willing to accept Korean culture than those in the group that had been in Korea for 4 years.
- This suggests that there are a gap between needs and previous literature.

WHY THIS RESEARCH TOPIC IS IMPORTANT?

- Career decision-making self-efficacy refers to an individual’s degree of belief about their capacity to successfully make career decisions (Taylor & Betz, 1983).
- Career decision-making self-efficacy theory proposed five tasks that are critical in making career decision-self-appraisal, occupational information-gathering, goals selecting, planning, and problems solving.
- Investigating what can inhibit or promote career decision-making self-efficacy of international students could have practical implications in career counseling.

TWO STUDIES CONDUCTED IN KOREA...

- Cui(2011)
  - Length of stay is a significant variable related to CDMSE
  - One year > less than one or one to three years
  - Over five years and less than one or one to three years
  - Cui(2011) explained that five years group could collect relevant information and make effective plans than their counterparts.
- Jang(2012)
  - Acceptance of Korean culture is a significant variable related to CDMSE
  - Acceptance of Korean culture is higher in female group than the male group, also those who had been in Korea for less than 2 years were more willing to accept Korean culture than those in the group that had been in Korea for 4 years.
  - The suggests that female group and less than two year group may have a tendency for higher acceptance Korean culture and higher CDMSE.
  - In these two studies, length of stay results in opposite outcomes which could be explained by Berry’s Model of Acculturation.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ CDMSE IN ENGLISH-MEDIATED JOURNAL

- Acculturation experience (Lee, 2009)
- Acculturation to the host culture in the sample of Korean International students (In, 2016)
- It seems that for international students, the more they are acculturated the more they are likely to accept Korean culture, and higher CDMSE.
- Counseling strategies need to be tailored to the students’ level of acculturation for higher their career decision making self-efficacy is, suggesting that career counseling strategies need to be tailored to the students’ level of acculturation for things like language ability, acculturation acceptance, etc.
Because international student's CDMSE is understudied, current study tried to draw ideas from career decision making self-efficacy on the sample of racial and ethnic minority students as well, with whom I think international student have the potential to share a lot of commonalities, because across ethnic and racial minorities are also exposed to and require to shift between two different cultures.

Montgomery's (2006) work, the correlational analyses found that career decision making self-efficacy and career maturity attitudes were related both positively and negatively, to participants' racial identity attitudes. Acculturation was found to be the most important variable, predicting CDMSE for both white students and racial and ethnic minorities students. This implies ethnic group orientation predicted CDMSE for both white students and racial and ethnic minority students but less for white students.

Given that these mixed results are all derived from Asian American samples, it can be argued that for Asian American students, acculturation to the mainstream may not be that essential for career decision making self-efficacy, as Wu (2009) stated. For goal selection, enculturation (which is acculturation to heritage culture) might not be that essential for career decision making self-efficacy, as Wu (2009) stated. Therefore, while acculturation was found to be one of the most important variables, enculturation was also found to contribute to the career development of students, highlighting the important need for the use of a bi-dimensional acculturation model (Wu, 2009). In career counseling, acculturation to heritage culture and mainstream both can be important sources to consider.

As previously stated,acculturation (related) to heritage culture or mainstream culture is significant in career decision making of college students of color (Sneva, 2011) in their ability to make a career choice that would meet their preferred lifestyle in the group of college students of color (Sneva, 2011). Also other factors included perceived career barriers, perceived education barriers, coping with career barriers self-efficacy, coping with educational barriers self-efficacy, and global social support to predict the dependent variable career decision - making self - efficacy in the group of Asian American students (Ann-Tai, 2010).

Also other factors included perceived career barriers, perceived education barriers, coping with career barriers self-efficacy, coping with educational barriers self-efficacy, and global social support to predict the dependent variable career decision - making self - efficacy in the group of Asian American students (Ann-Tai, 2010). In career counseling, acculturation to heritage culture and mainstream both can be important sources to consider. In career counseling, acculturation to heritage culture and mainstream both can be important sources to consider.
CONCLUSION

- In conclusion, in order to improve international students' self-efficacy in career decision-making, promoting acculturation and enculturation level seems the most efficient.
- Finally, because the international group in Korea is so diverse, and they vary in country origin, education level, family background, personality, length of stay, language ability, social class, and so on, therefore, I think qualitative research is appropriate to explore the career decision making process of this group.

OVERALL

- Acculturation, ethnic identity, family background (including support, parenting style, mother's educational level, and length of stay) could be important considerations in providing career counseling to international students.
- First of all, acculturation is the most salient factor found both in international group and racial and ethnic group. Notably, there are conflicting results between acculturation and CDMSE for the Asian American group. Thus, acculturation is not always a predictor of CDMSE. Additionally, the immersion of some students from China may result from the Asian American group, however, they may not have an issue when designing career development program.
- Second, ethnic identity was found to be an essential consideration for ethnic minorities, however, I am not sure whether this is relevant to international students. Because the variance of ethnic identity is too big, and compared to other important variables, it is hard to use.
- Third, although I think family variables also account for many variance of CDMSE in international students sample, but in practice, the majority of international students are far away from their family, so this variable is hard to utilize when implementing career counseling program.

REFERENCE


REFERENCE

THANK YOU!