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The Effects of Perception of gender in People with Developmental Disabilities on Life Satisfaction

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to empirically analyze the effect of gender perception on the life satisfaction of people with developmental disabilities. Based on the results, it was intended to suggest practical measures to improve the developmentally disabled's awareness of their gender and quality of life.

To achieve the purpose of the study, a survey was conducted with a significant sample of people with developmental disabilities aged 30 or older in Ulsan City. It was done. Of the collected questionnaires, 58 copies were used as final analysis data, excluding unfaithful responses. The collected data were factor analysis, reliability analysis, frequency analysis, Pearson correlation analysis, t/F-test, and regression analysis using SPSS 20.0 It was implemented. Based on the analysis results, the development of gender education programs for people with developmental disabilities to provide knowledge and information about gender and developmental disabilities. It suggested establishing experts and counseling institutions dedicated to gender and implementing and promoting social education for the general public.

Keywords: *Effects of Perception, Recognition, Gender, People with Developmental Disabilities, Life Satisfaction*

1. INTRODUCTION

Although it has increased the life expectancy of people due to the development of medical technology, the number of people with developmental disabilities is increasing. As a result, various studies on the improvement and expansion of medical, economic, housing, leisure, and social support for the developmentally disabled.

Welfare policies for people with disabilities are being implemented, and the ultimate purpose of this welfare policy for people with disabilities is to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. However, it may be seen as a result of the tendency of our society not to recognize the gender of the developmentally disabled and the social

be somewhat unreasonable to evaluate the results of these welfare policies for people with disabilities as having

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a high quality of life for the developmentally disabled.

The reason is that the discussion on gender, which can be said to be a basic human need, is insufficient, which perception that the gender of the developmentally disabled was considered as a non-existent existence

However, as the standard of living in our society improves, the number of healthy and active people with developmental disabilities and the number of people with developmental disabilities who want to pursue happiness until the last moment of their lives are increasingly becoming a social problem.

In particular, more than half of the people with developmental disabilities felt genderual desire for the opposite gender, imagined genderual activity, and answered that they wanted to make friends with the opposite gender if they had the opportunity, which can be seen as an essential result suggesting that people with developmental disabilities are no different from adults in terms of genderual desire and necessity. In addition, regular gender life has a positive mental and psychological effect on people with developmental disabilities, and it can be confirmed that people with developmental disabilities with the correct perception of gender have high life satisfaction.

These findings emphasize that gender life has a more significant impact than economic or health conditions, which are factors affecting the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities. That the gender life of people with developmental disabilities is a factor that cannot be ignored as a way to increase life satisfaction for people with developmental disabilities.

In other words, for people with developmental disabilities, gender does not simply mean physical gender. However, it implies that it should be recognized as an essential part of life that resolves the feeling of alienation and loneliness on behalf of the general public and other social relationships.

Therefore, it can be seen that the genderual needs of people with developmental disabilities are a natural phenomenon, and the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities varies depending on how they cope with genderual needs. This indicates that discussions to exclude gender, which is a basic human need, and to improve the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities are somewhat unreasonable.

It is necessary to socially recognize that an open, receptive, and unrepensible attitude toward the gender of people with developmental disabilities is an essential factor in improving the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities. Therefore, on the premise of social prejudice against the gender of people with developmental disabilities and a lack of awareness in our society, this study attempted to empirically analyze the effect of the perception of the gender of people with developmental disabilities on life satisfaction.

Based on the analysis results, practical measures to improve the perception of gender and quality of life of people with developmental disabilities were suggested. In order to achieve the research objectives, the following research questions were set up.

First, what is the perception of gender according to the demographic characteristics of people developmental disabilities?

Second, what is the effect of the perception of gender of people with developmental disabilities on life satisfaction?

II. Theoretical background

1. The gender of the developmentally disabled

Gender is not just limited to genderual intercourse that meets genderual instincts; it is self-expression by the body, implies various human exchanges or relational behaviors, and is the effect of the perception of gender of people with developmental disabilities on life satisfaction.

In addition, satisfying human genderual needs also includes the meaning of a social process in which

communication, such as language, including gestures and symbols, intervenes. Therefore, gender should be thought of as genderuality in which meanings such as gender in biological meaning, gender in social meaning, and relationship in emotional meaning are integrated. This indicates that gender perception and behavior should be generalized to human beings' universal common sense, not the exclusive property of intellectuals.

In particular, from the perspective of the younger generation, it is more important to recognize the gender of the developmentally disabled as a genderual desire in a broad sense rather than a physical act in a narrow sense because the genderual behavior of the developmentally disabled is closely related to solitude resolution, social isolation, or social problems.

In addition, indeed, the gender of people with developmental disabilities generally decreases in terms of quality and quantity. Still, it is not finite that their functions are depleted at some time, so it is always possible unless they have severe physical and mental disabilities. It remains unchanged that gender makes human affection and living worthwhile.

On the other hand, it is necessary to view the gender of the developmentally disabled as one of the rights. In other words, the genderual rights of people with developmental disabilities should be accepted as one of the life problems that are not restricted by physiological conditions. Furthermore, it should be defined as a disability problem in life relations.

After all, considering that humans are beings who pursue love and value beyond just eating and drinking physiological life, genderual desire in humans is the most intense primary need, along with the desire for appetite or rest.

Therefore, the gender of people with developmental disabilities should be understood as a concept of genderuality, not from the perspective of biological degeneration, and should be interpreted in a comprehensive sense of culture, customs, and institutions surrounding genderual ability and gender as well as genderual differences of people with developmental disabilities. In addition, it should be understood as a comprehensive meaning, warmth, and intimacy that includes emotions, wills, and behavior patterns beyond the concept of gender in a narrow sense centered on the body.

2. Perception of Gender and Satisfaction with Life of People with Developmental Disabilities

For people with developmental disabilities, perception of gender refers to the fundamental desire for gender, including the feeling of genderual life of the developmental disabilities themselves. In other words, it refers to the state of mind that tries to satisfy needs based on the function of physical and mental gender as a feeling that a person with a developmental disability has toward gender and the attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge of gender revealed by it.

When people with developmental disabilities' perceptions of gender are summarized in detail, it means the degree of awareness of interest, attitude, and importance of gender. Interest in gender is one of the most intense needs, along with physiological needs, which are the most basic needs that all humans are born with instinct, and attitudes toward gender are formed in the culture to which individuals belong as a result of socialization as a significant factor that governs human genderual behavior.

In other words, it can be seen as a form of expression of values or beliefs about gender life. The importance of gender continues during the duration of life in human gender life, and it means that it helps a lot in the sense of belonging, usefulness, mental satisfaction, and vitality of the life of people with developmental disabilities. On the other hand, for people with developmental disabilities, life satisfaction is to regard life as meaningful while accepting responsibility for the life they have lived so far without feeling pleasure in all areas of current daily life.

In other words, they feel that they have successfully achieved an important goal in life and maintain an optimistic lifestyle by forming a positive self-concept that considers themselves valuable. In this context,

Kalish said that the life satisfaction perceived by people with developmental disabilities is directly related to the concept of successful aging.

The higher the satisfaction with daily life and the more positive the perception of gender life, the higher the satisfaction with life and the lower the depression.

This high awareness of gender among people with developmental disabilities means that people with developmental disabilities also have a desire for gender and recognize positive attitudes and the importance of gender life. Although many people with developmental disabilities experience problems related to gender life, they enjoy gender life on their own and consider it essential, so the gender of people with developmental disabilities must be an important part of their lives.

However, in general, people's perceptions do not view the genderual needs of people with developmental disabilities as a simple meaning of genderual impulse and psychological and emotional meaning such as resolving feelings of loneliness.

Just as humans need food, clothing, shelter, and shelter, everyone needs love, affection, intimacy, and gender regardless of age. For people with developmental disabilities, gender is an integral part of life that resolves feelings of alienation and isolation in place of social activities and social relations lost to people with developmental disabilities beyond just physical gender relationships.

III. Research method

1. Subject of study

This study's subjects were selected through the significance sampling method among people with developmental disabilities over the age of 30 in Ulsan. The survey was conducted by the investigator directly visiting the welfare centers for the disabled, vocational rehabilitation facilities, and residential facilities for people with disabilities, which are used by the developmental disabilities to explain and retrieve the questionnaire. In the sampling process of the study subjects, men and women with developmental disabilities over the age of 30, people with developmental disabilities who can communicate, and people with developmental disabilities who understood the purpose of this study and agreed to the survey were targeted. The survey was conducted from April to October 2022, and 58 of the 60 questionnaires collected were used as final analysis data, excluding two unfaithful responses.

2. Measurement Tools

2.1 Perception of gender

The gender perception scale of people with developmental disabilities, an independent variable in this study, was based on the scale used in the study of Yoon Jae-sil (2010). Let us look at the response questions for each sub-variable of the gender perception scale of the developmental disability

It consisted of 12 questions, each with three sub-variables: interest in cotton and gender (4 questions), importance of gender (4 questions), and attitude toward gender (4 questions). Each response question used a Likert 5-point scale, and the higher the score, the higher the level of gender awareness. An exploratory factor analysis was conducted to find out whether each item on the gender perception scale properly reflects the factor structure assumed by the theory. Principal component analysis was used as the factor extraction method.

The items were selected based on an eigenvalue of 1 or more. As a result of the initial analysis, eight items of three sub-factors were finally selected, excluding three items loaded differently from the theoretical structure. The reliability of Cronbah's alpha value of the gender perception scale was .891.

2.2 Satisfaction with life

The life satisfaction scale, the dependent variable of this study, used the scale of Na-young Kang (2011) developed to measure the general life satisfaction of the developmentally disabled. This scale consisted of a single scale, and the response questions consisted of 8. Each response question used a Likert 5-point scale, and the higher the response score, the higher the life satisfaction.

Exploratory factor analysis was conducted to determine whether each question on the life satisfaction scale of the developmental disability properly reflected the factor structure assumed in the theory, and principal component analysis was used as the factor extraction method. The reliability of Cronbach's alpha value of the life satisfaction scale was .874.

3. Analysis Method

SPSS 18.0 was used for data analysis in this study, and the following analysis methods were used.

First, exploratory factor analysis and reliability analysis are used to determine the validity and reliability of the survey tool. Second, frequency analysis was used to find out the demographic characteristics of the developmental disabilities surveyed. Third, correlation analysis was used to find out the correlation between variables. Fourth, a t/F-test was conducted to determine the difference in gender perception according to demographic characteristics of people with developmental disabilities, and fifth; a hierarchical regression analysis was conducted to determine the effect of gender perception on life satisfaction.

IV. Analysis Results

1. demographic characteristics

The demographic characteristics of people with developmental disabilities in the study are as follows. The gender was found to be 20 men (44.4%) and 38 women (55.6%), and the age was 19 people under the age of 30 (52.9%), 24 people in their 40s (24.6%), and five people in their 50s or older (12.5%). Thirty-nine people (74.3%) had a spouse or not, 19 people (25.7%) had a primary school graduate or less (4.7%), 14 middle school graduates (48.9%), and 33 people (46.4%) had a high school diploma or higher.

2. Correlation between variables

Correlation analysis in this study was conducted using Pearson correlation to examine the correlation between significant variables and the multi collinear problem prior to the hierarchical regression analysis process. As a result of the analysis, there was no case where the correlation coefficient between each explanatory variable was 0.6 or higher, so it can be said to be linearly independent, and there was no problem with multi collinearity. The analysis found a positive (+) correlation between perception of gender and life satisfaction. It was found that there was a positive (+) correlation between the sub-variable of perception and life satisfaction in the order of interest in gender and attitude toward gender. On the other hand, there was no correlation between the importance of gender and life satisfaction.

3. The Effects of Perception of Gender on Life Satisfaction

In order to analyze the effect of the perception of the gender of the developmentally disabled on life satisfaction, a hierarchical regression analysis was conducted with demographic characteristics and the perception of the gender of the developmentally disabled as independent variables and the life satisfaction of the developmentally disabled as dependent variables. As a result of the analysis, two regression models were presented in hierarchical regression analysis. Model 1 predicts the effect of demographic characteristics of

people with developmental disabilities on life satisfaction, and Model 2 is a model that additionally introduces interest, importance, and attitude, which are sub-variables of the perception of gender of people with developmental disabilities.

As a result of the analysis, the F value of Model 1 was found to account for 29.8% ($R^2=.329$) of the variance of life satisfaction of people with developmental disabilities, and the variable affecting the life satisfaction of people with developmental disabilities was gender ($\beta=-.365$, $p<.001$) among demographic characteristics.

Model 2 added gender awareness to Model 1, and it was found to explain 35.9% ($R^2=.386$) of the life satisfaction variables of the developmentally disabled. The analysis found that the variables affecting the life satisfaction of the developmentally disabled were important among the demographic characteristics of the presence of a spouse and the perception of gender. On the other hand, gender, which was found to have a significant influence in Model 1, was finally found to have no influence. Age and education, which were found not to influence Model 1, were still found not to influence Model 2.

V. Conclusion

This study was an empirical study on the effect of the perception of gender on the life satisfaction of people with developmental disabilities and attempted to suggest practical measures to improve the perception of gender and the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities. The research results are summarized as follows.

First, as a result of analyzing the difference in perception of gender according to the demographic characteristics of the developmental disability surveyed, it was found that there was a difference in perception of gender according to gender. This is the research and work of Lee(2010).

In addition, it can be seen that male developmental disabilities have a positive and active attitude toward gender, have a strong genderual desire, and perceive gender more importantly than female developmental disabilities. These results are believed to be due to the cultural characteristics of Korea, where expression of gender is not tolerated in female developmental disabilities compared to male developmental disabilities. In particular, it can be inferred that attitudes toward gender, a sub-variable of gender perception, differ according to age because of cultural characteristics.

Next, it was found that there was a difference in perception of gender according to educational background, which was found to be partially consistent with the results of previous studies. In other words, the difference in perception of gender according to educational background suggests that people with developmental disabilities should be provided with knowledge and information about gender, and the need for various education on the gender of people with developmental disabilities is raised.

However, unlike previous studies that showed that there was a difference in gender perception according to the age of people with developmental disabilities, this study showed that there was no difference according to age, indicating that people with developmental disabilities consider gender an essential part of their lives like the general public. It can be seen as supporting the saying, 'Even if you have a disability, your interest in gender does not decrease.'

Analyzing the effect on satisfaction, it was found that the importance of gender perception affects life satisfaction.

This is because human interest in gender begins from birth until death, and in particular, the gender of the developmentally disabled can be seen as an essential factor affecting life satisfaction by resolving feelings of alienation and loneliness on behalf of social relationships.

Based on the results of this study, measures to improve the perception of gender and quality of life of people with developmental disabilities are as follows.

First, it is necessary to develop a gender education program for people with developmental disabilities to provide knowledge and information about gender. For people with developmental disabilities, information about gender can be seen as being learned from our traditional Confucian thoughts and culture. This learning can be seen as several obstacles to establishing the concept of gender for the disabled.

In a rapidly changing society, gender education opportunities should be provided so that a person can live without being separated from society and meet basic human needs. In addition, prior to providing educational opportunities, social awareness should be improved so that it can play a role as a subject pursuing genderual desire outside the meaning of the loss of genderual existence of people with developmental disabilities.

Second, it is necessary to establish an expert and counseling institution dedicated to the gender of people with developmental disabilities. Currently, some counseling rooms, such as welfare centers for the disabled and welfare centers for the developmental disabilities in each city, county, and district, are operated, but there are no policies, institutional operations, or expert arrangements in the public sector, so it is urgent to prepare an alternative.

In particular, in the case of couples with developmental disabilities, excluding those with developmental disabilities, a family-concept approach is needed rather than an approach to the problem of the developmental disability. Therefore, strengthening the functions of family counseling centers installed in most cities, counties, and districts will be an alternative.

In addition, it is necessary to open an expert training course that can provide in-depth counseling and treatment for genderual problems of people with developmental disabilities.

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