

Study of the Awareness and Preference of the Image of Educators by Dental Hygiene Department Students

Yong-Keum Choi¹ and Da-Young Ryu^{2*}

¹Department of Dental Hygiene, Sun Moon University, Asansi-31460, Korea;
jennychoi@sunmoon.ac.kr

²Department of Dental Hygiene, Hyejeon College, Hongseong-gun-32244, Korea;
sol0807@hj.ac.kr

Abstract

Objectives: This research, with students in the Department of Dental Hygiene as the recipients, means to provide the base line data for educators to grasp how dental hygiene students look upon educators. **Methods/Statistical Analysis:** The data collected was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS 21.0) program (SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA). The basic factors, school lives, awareness of the images of educators, and the preferred image of educators were analyzed with frequency, and the analysis of educator image awareness according to year took place by a one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) followed by a post-comparison of Turkey. **Findings:** For the preferred image of educators by the research recipients, comfortable and friendly images were highest at 48%, and for the preferred lecturing method, professors that use various education mediums came in first at 30.3%. The most preferred character of educators was those with passion at 51.3%. This means that the talent and role of university professors are important standards when it comes to influencing a university level of education to the students. **Improvements/Applications:** This study investigated to part of subjects, it is difficult to generalize.

Keywords: Awareness, Dental Hygiene Students, Educator, Image of Education

1. Introduction

A first impression is a central concept in human relations, and it only takes a short time to decide and seal the impression of the other person¹. A first impression can be linked to the images of individuals, and this image directly influences personal relations and social life².

The factors of an image mean that the expressions, looks, attitudes, and accents of individuals that we can see on the outside which are displayed on the basis of the heart, thoughts, habits, desires, and emotions of that person. Thus an image is a medium that people see with their eyes, and also plays a role as the means to help the

thinking and understanding of the opponent, to provide conviction and motivation to the other person, and to show your identity in the process of social interaction, becoming a valuation basis that wields strong influence³.

Especially, with education at schools, the image of the educator promotes an imitation mentality in the educatee, and appears to show influence in various aspects, such as academic attitudes and class participation^{4,5}. The character, attitude, and specialty of an educator at a university are classified as images of educators, and it is being said that these factors have an effect on the major satisfaction, stress, study achievements, and career choice of university students⁶. Therefore this research, with students in the

*Author for correspondence

Department of Dental Hygiene as the recipient, means to provide the base line data for educators to grasp how dental hygiene students look upon educators and what educator image they prefer, thus making it possible to establish and evaluate an image that is necessary for the students.

The position as a female professor at a university, a job of robust characteristics, has been selected as one of the most preferred jobs by female university students, and for the most preferred image of a female professor, a natural image was selected more than a glamorous image^{7,8}. In another research explained that the image of the educator has an effect on major satisfaction and on the decision of one's career, and that the specialty, leadership, a respectable image to students, and the attitude of the educator that creates the classroom environment can become factors that wield influence on the major satisfaction of students^{9,10}.

From this advanced research, we can realize that the image of an educator can give influence to students during their university life. The educator must be evaluated in various aspects^{11,12}. This is because as a role model, the educator is very influential to the students. Therefore, it is very important how the image of an educator is looked upon by the students. But in actuality, there has never been any research done on the awareness and preference of educators' images, and it is not easy for educators themselves to evaluate and look upon this matter.

2. Proposed Work

With 522 students in their freshman, sophomore, and junior years of the Department of Dental Hygiene in universities in Seoul, Gyeonggi, Chungnam, Jeolla, Gyeongsang, and Kangwon as the target, a survey took place from May 23rd, 2014 to June 11th, 2015, implementing frequency analyses and cross analyses, using the 18.0 version of Predictive Analytics Software (PASW).

The survey tools that measured the image of educators were developed by researchers, and three questions about basic information, the five questions about the image of educators, and the five questions about the preferred images of educators, the survey was developed on a scale of 5 Likert points, as a self-administrated questionnaire.

The credibility analysis results used in this research from the awareness of educators' images had a value of Cronbach's α 0.841. The data collected was analyzed using the SPSS 21.0 program (SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA). The basic factors, school lives, awareness of the images of

educators, and the preferred image of educators were analyzed with frequency, and the analysis of educator image awareness according to year took place by a one-way ANOVA followed by a post-comparison of Turkey. In addition, the difference of the awareness towards the image of educators as a result of the preferred educator image according to year and the satisfaction of department was cross analyzed, and later used the suitability comparison of Fisher. A significance level of $p < 0.05$ was used.

2.1 General Present Condition of Research Recipients

As part of a characteristic of the department, 98.6% were female, and for their residence, capital areas were the highest at 38.6% as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Questions about general information

| Question | Classification | Frequency (N) | Percentage (%) |
|------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Gender | Male | 8 | 1.4% |
| | Female | 544 | 98.6% |
| Year | Freshman | 192 | 34.8% |
| | Sophomore | 195 | 35.3% |
| | Junior | 165 | 29.9% |
| Residence | Capital Area | 213 | 38.6% |
| | Chungcheong | 95 | 17.3% |
| | Gyeongsang | 121 | 21.9% |
| | Jeolla | 59 | 10.7% |
| | Kangwon | 62 | 11.2% |
| | Other | 2 | 0.4% |
| Total N(%) | | 552 | 100 |

2.2 Image of Educators that Research Recipients Recognize

To whether they thought the educator was hard-working, 42.8% replied "Yes", to whether they had a high degree of professionalism, 48.4% said "Yes", 34.2% said "Yes" to whether the educator was kind, and 44.2% replied with "Yes" to whether the educator is respectable as shown in Table 2.

2.3 Image of Educators that Research Recipients Prefer

For the preferred image of educators by the research recipients, comfortable and friendly images were highest

Table 2. Awareness of educators' image by recipients of research N(%)

| Contents | Not at all | No | Medium | Yes | Very Much |
|---|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| The educator is sincere | 10(1.8) | 40(7.2) | 228(41.3) | 236(42.8) | 38(6.9) |
| The educator has a high degree of professionalism | 4(0.7) | 28(5.1) | 170(30.8) | 267(48.4) | 83(15.0) |
| The educator is kind | 8(1.4) | 56(10.1) | 269(48.7) | 189(34.2) | 30(5.4) |
| The educator's social position is high | 9(1.6) | 36(6.5) | 227(41.1) | 239(43.3) | 41(7.4) |
| The educator is respectable | 8(1.4) | 34(6.2) | 216(39.1) | 244(44.2) | 50(9.1) |
| Total N(%)= 552(100) | | | | | |

Table 3. Preferred image of educators by research recipients

| Question | Classification | Frequency (N) | Percentage (%) |
|--|---|---------------|----------------|
| Important Elements of Educator | Impression | 13 | 2.4 |
| | Lecturing Method | 220 | 39.9 |
| | Character (Personality) | 217 | 39.3 |
| | Specialty | 102 | 18.5 |
| Preferred Image of Educator | Intellectual Image | 75 | 13.6 |
| | Elegant and Graceful Image | 77 | 13.9 |
| | Humorous Image | 117 | 21.2 |
| | Comfortable and Friendly Image | 265 | 48.0 |
| | Urban and Cool-Headed Image | 18 | 3.3 |
| Preferred Lecturing Method of Educator | Using Various Education Mediums | 167 | 30.3 |
| | Taking Exams Often | 40 | 7.2 |
| | National Examinations More than Clinical Lectures | 113 | 20.5 |
| | Asking Many Questions to Students | 94 | 17.0 |
| | Giving Awards When Students Work Hard | 138 | 25.0 |
| Preferred Character of Educator | Emotional | 57 | 10.3 |
| | Rational | 121 | 21.9 |
| | Passionate | 283 | 51.3 |
| | Logical | 91 | 16.5 |
| Preferred Specialty of Educator | With Much Clinical Experience | 134 | 24.3 |
| | Comprehensive of Theoretical Knowledge | 34 | 6.2 |
| | One That Researches His Specialty Much | 96 | 17.4 |
| | High Academic Ability in One's Specialty | 47 | 8.5 |
| | One That Explains Lucidly and Delivers Easily | 241 | 43.7 |
| Total N(%)=522(100) | | | |

at 48%, and for the preferred lecturing method, professors that use various education mediums came in first at 30.3%. The most preferred character of educators was those with passion, at 51.3% as shown in Table 3.

2.4 Preferred Image of Educators by Research Recipients

As part of the preferred images of professors, specialty was selected more often by students in higher years, and while

Table 4. Preferred image of professors by research recipients according to year

| Question | | Year | | | p -Value* |
|--|--|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | | Freshman | Sophomore | Junior | |
| Important Elements of Educator | Impression | 4(2.1) | 7(3.6) | 2(1.2) | 0.010 |
| | Lecturing Method (skill) | 61(31.8) | 87(44.6) | 72(43.6) | |
| | Character (Personality) | 96(50.0) | 64(32.8) | 57(34.5) | |
| | Specialty | 31(16.1) | 37(19.0) | 34(20.6) | |
| Preferred Image of Educator | Intellectual Image | 15(7.8) | 28(14.4) | 32(19.4) | 0.036 |
| | Elegant and Graceful Image | 25(13.0) | 27(13.8) | 25(15.2) | |
| | Humorous Image | 53(27.6) | 36(18.5) | 28(17.0) | |
| | Friendly Image | 94(49.0) | 98(50.3) | 73(44.2) | |
| | Urban and Cold-Headed Image | 5(2.6) | 6(3.1) | 7(4.2) | |
| Preferred Lecturing Method of Educator | Using Various Education Mediums | 45(23.4) | 67(34.4) | 55(33.3) | 0.002 |
| | Taking Exams Often | 23(12.0) | 8(4.1) | 9(5.5) | |
| | Lecturing Based on National Examinations | 40(20.8) | 38(19.5) | 35(21.2) | |
| | Asking Many Questions | 45(23.4) | 25(33.2) | 24(14.5) | |
| | Awarding the Hard Work by Students | 39(20.3) | 57(29.2) | 42(25.3) | |
| Preferred Character of Educator | Emotional | 16(8.3) | 25(12.8) | 16(9.7) | 0.681 |
| | Rational | 45(23.4) | 42(21.5) | 34(20.6) | |
| | Passionate | 95(49.5) | 101(51.8) | 87(52.7) | |
| | Logical | 6(18.8) | 27(13.8) | 28(17.0) | |
| Preferred Specialty of Educator | With Much Clinical Experience | 45(23.4) | 52(26.7) | 37(22.4) | <0.001 |
| | Comprehensive of Theoretical Knowledge | 22(11.5) | 4(2.1) | 8(4.8) | |
| | One That Researches His Specialty Much | 29(15.1) | 30(15.4) | 37(22.4) | |
| | High Academic Ability in One's Specialty | 26(13.3) | 11(5.6) | 10(6.1) | |
| | One That Delivers Knowledge Easily | 70(36.5) | 98(50.3) | 73(44.2) | |
| Total(552) | | 192(100) | 195(100) | 165(100) | |

*Exact Results of Fisher Hypothesis After Chi-Square Analysis.

freshmen preferred humorous images, sophomores and juniors showed high in friendly images as shown in Table 4.

3. Conclusion

From the results above, as images recognized by Dental Hygiene students we found factors such as hard-working and specialty, while kindness and the level of closeness did not matter so much. In addition, the character and lecturing method of an educator are important elements, and the most preferred lecturing method has appeared to be those that use various education mediums or where students are awarded for their hard work. It has also appeared that educators that are passionate

and that pass on major knowledge in an easy way were preferred. Through these results, educators can now have it so that for the efficiency of education, much effort can be made for the power of knowledge delivery and for a closer relationship with the students. Just how they say that the quality of education can never surpass the quality of the teacher, the quality of the teacher is very important when it comes to a university level of education. This means that the talent and role of university professors are important standards when it comes to influencing a university level of education to the students. Therefore, it is necessary for educators to keep in mind the preferred image by students, and it is being reasoned that a suitable teaching method, a

relationship with the students, and especially a form that can be an example to students are to be needed to accomplish communication.

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