

The Necessity of the Exploration on Special Education Teacher as an Occupation

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Abstract

This study attempted to discuss the necessity of the exploration about special education teachers' occupation. First, this study discussed special education teachers' current status. It showed that special education teachers could be influenced by various factors such as the relationship between teachers and students, the experiences in schools, and the perceptions about special education teachers. It tried to show that the studies on special education teachers' occupation needed to be explored by considering these factors. Second, this study mentioned the lack of the studies related to special education teachers' occupation. It criticized that the studies focusing special education teachers' occupation seemed not to be abundant. Finally, this study mentioned the considerations in a study related to special education teachers' occupation. Based on these discussions, it suggests the necessity of a study related to special education teachers' occupation.

Keywords: *Special education, Teacher, Occupation, Status, Factors, Considerations*

1. Introduction

1.1. The necessity of the study

Special education teacher is one occupation like other occupations, and the factors that influence special education teachers' occupation can be various according to each special education teacher. For example, special education teachers can be different in the identity on special education teacher among them [2]. Therefore, it is important to understand special education teachers as an occupation. In order to understand special education teachers as an occupation, it will be necessary to identify various factors such as the feelings about their occupation, the professionalism as special education teacher, the difficulties in their occupation, and the ways to overcome the difficulties in their occupation.

First, it will be necessary to identify special education teachers' feelings about their occupation. Special education teachers may have various feelings about their occupation. For example, some special education teachers may concern about their occupation such as the uncertainty about professionalism and the lack of belief about special education teacher as a continuous work. These concerns may be appeared as various forms among special education teachers. Similarly, special education teachers may be different in the satisfaction on occupation among them. For instance, some special education teachers may be satisfied with

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their occupation, but other special education teachers may not do so. Therefore, it will be necessary to explore how special education teachers feel their occupation.

Second, it will be necessary to understand special education teachers' thoughts about their professionalism. Some special education teachers may think that they want to be a better teacher and may try to make efforts to develop their professionalism, but other special education teachers may not think so and may have different responses about the development of their professionalism. In addition to the responses on professionalism, special education teachers may have various responses on the connection between knowledge and instruction. Some special education teachers may try to apply their special education knowledge into the instruction for students with disabilities, but other special education teachers may do not so. In other words, special education teachers' professionalism may be variously perceived or conducted among them.

Third, since special education teachers can experience various difficulties while working at school [1][2][3][4][5], it will be necessary to identify special education teachers' difficulties. The identification about special education teachers' difficulties will help special education teachers to focus on students with disabilities without other concerns. In addition, the difficulties that special education teachers experience may influence the thoughts on their occupation. For example, some special education teachers may think their work as a lifetime occupation, but other special education teachers may not be confident as a lifetime occupation due to the difficulties that they experience at work. Therefore, it will be necessary to identify the difficulties at work, and will be necessary to explore the possible ways to overcome these difficulties.

This paper showed that special education teachers' occupation might need to be explored by the considerations of various factors. It briefly mentioned special education teachers' occupation in terms of the feelings about occupation, the professionalism on occupation, and the difficulties in occupation. Based on these explorations, this study attempted to identify a study to be necessary for understanding special education teacher as an occupation.

1.2. Research questions

As I mentioned in the necessity of the study, the purpose of this study was to understand special education teacher as an occupation, and tried to identify the ways to explore special education teacher as an occupation. The research questions to achieve for the purpose of this study were as follows.

First, how can special education teacher be understood as an occupation?

Second, what kinds of considerations are necessary to be explored for understanding special education teacher as an occupation?

2. The understanding of special education teacher as an occupation

Special education teachers may have various responses on special education teacher as an occupation. Some special education teachers may have positive responses on special education teacher as an occupation, but other special education teachers may not have so. In other words, special education teachers can be different among them due to their individual differences, and these differences may come from various aspects such as the perception over disability, the certainty over occupation, and the value about occupation. Therefore, it is necessary to comprehensively explore special education teacher as an occupation, and needs to help special education teachers to be well developed their roles as an occupation.

2.1. The factors influencing special education teachers' occupation

Special education teachers' occupation may be influenced by various factors.

First, special education teachers' experiences may influence their occupation. For example, special education teachers can have various experiences with others such as the experiences with students with disabilities, the experiences with colleagues, and the experiences with disabled students' parents, and these experiences may somewhat influence special education teachers' occupation [1][2].

Second, the perceptions about special education teachers may influence their occupation. Special education teachers can be influenced from others or themselves about the perception on special education teacher [2][3]. For example, if some people have negative perceptions about special education teachers' occupation and express their negative perceptions to special education teachers, it may undesirably influence special education teachers' perceptions about their occupation. Similarly, if some special education teachers feel uncomfortable about their own occupation, they may not develop positive beliefs about their own occupation.

Third, external conditions may influence special education teachers' occupation. For example, administrative situations can influence special education teachers' perceptions about special education [2][3]. If school administrators are supportive to special education, special education teachers may be able to work at a supportive special education environment. However, if school administrators do not favor with special education, it may be difficult for special education teachers to work at a supportive special education environment.

[Figure 1] shows the factors that may influence special education teachers' occupation.

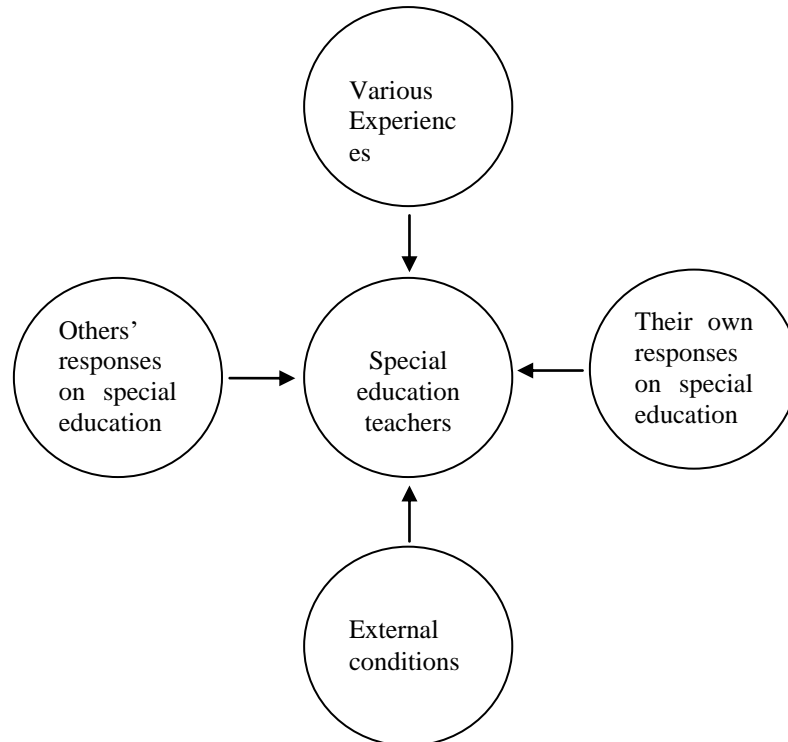


Figure 1. The factors that may influence special education teachers' occupation

2.2. Possible ways to be explored in order to understand special education teachers' occupation

Special education teachers' occupation may be explored in various ways. These explorations may include satisfaction, development, and environment related to special education teachers' occupation. [Figure 2] shows a few ways that may be explored to understand special education teachers' occupation.

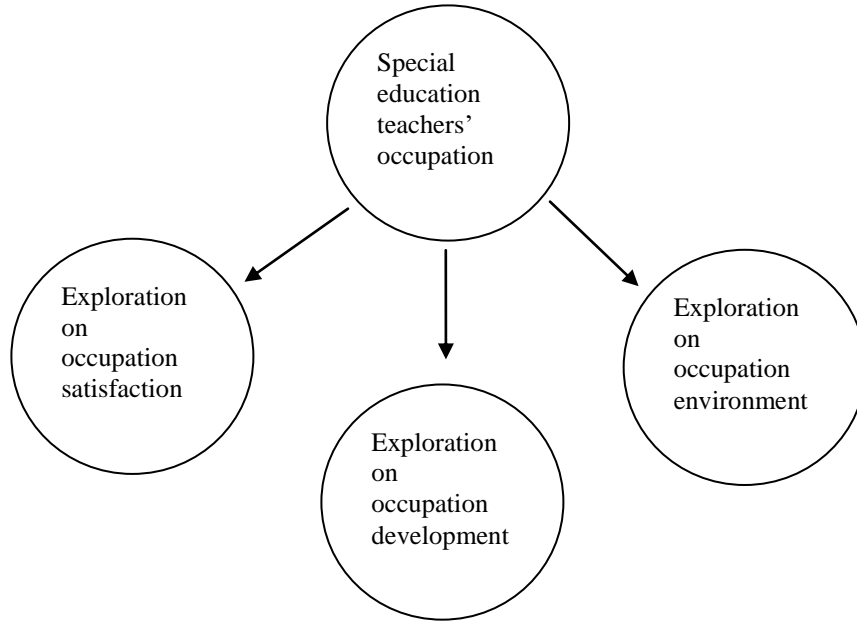


Figure 2. A few ways to be explored in special education teachers' occupation

3. The considerations in a study related to special education teachers' occupation

A study on special education teachers' occupation may need to consider various aspects. A few considerations may include as follow.

First, a study on special education teachers' occupations may need to consider special education teachers' interests. For example, special education teachers may have various interests while working at schools, and these interests may be related to their occupation. Therefore, it is necessary to identify special education teachers' interests.

Second, a study on special education teachers' occupation may need to focus on special education teachers. Some studies such as [3][4][5] are related to special education teachers, but these studies mainly focus on students with disabilities or the contents related to disabled students rather than special education teachers. In this case, it will be difficult to understand special education teachers. Therefore, it is necessary to consider whether a study focuses on special education teachers or not, and needs to explore the studies that focus on special education teachers.

Third, as school placements that special education teachers work are not same [6][7][8], a study on special education teachers' occupation may need to consider school placements. For instance, special education teachers working at general schools can have different experiences because of the experiences with people such as general education teachers and non-disabled students in comparison with special education teachers working at special schools [2]. School

placements may influence special education teachers' experiences and perceptions related to the occupation. Therefore, it will be necessary to distinguish work placements to understand special education teachers' occupation.

Until now, this study tried to discuss a few considerations in the study of special education teachers' occupation. Although this study mentioned three considerations as a study for exploring special education teachers' occupation, there will be various considerations including these considerations.

4. Conclusion

This paper tried to display the necessity of an exploration on special education teachers as an occupation.

First, this paper tried to understand special education teachers' occupation. It showed that special education teachers might be influenced by various factors in their work. It also mentioned that the studies about special education teachers' occupation could be explored in various ways.

Second, this paper described various considerations in a study related to special education teachers' occupation. Although this study stated three considerations regarding the studies for special education teachers' occupation, it mentioned that there would be many other considerations.

This paper mainly mentioned that special education teachers' occupation needs to be understood by considering various aspects such as special education teachers' needs and various factors that influence special education teachers' occupation. If a study be conducted to understand special education teacher as an occupation, it will help special education teachers to better establish their own identity and confidence as special education teacher. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct various studies that focus on special education teachers' occupation.

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