Research Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the relationships among psychological traits, social environment and discipline behaviors of Prathomsuksa 6 and Mathayomsuksa 3 students in Bangkok. The subjects consisted of 276 Prathomsuksa 6 students of 1995 academic year from Department of Education, Bangkok Metropolitan schools and 264 Mathayomsuksa 3 students of 1995 academic year from Department of General Education schools, Ministry of Education. Data were gathered by giving twelve questionnaires and one test to each subject to investigate need for achievement, attitude towards discipline behaviors, supporting from school, moral reasoning ability, belief in internal locus of control of reinforcement, future orientation and self - control, child rearing practices and parental identity on discipline behaviors, teacher's preaching and identity on discipline behaviors, actual discipline behaviors, perception of school rule and value, empathy, mental health and intelligence. Data collected were analyzed by Stepwise - multiple regression analysis and t - test.

Major findings were as follows :

1. Internal factors (performer 's psychological traits) and external factors (social environment) could significantly predict discipline behaviors of the total subjects. The variance explained was 39.27 %

2. The best predictor of discipline behaviors which was in the first rank of all, groups, except Mathayomsuksa 3 students, was future orientation and self - control. The others were attitude towards discipline behaviors, perception of school rule and value, need for achievement, child rearing practices and parental identity on discipline behaviors and teacher's material support, respectively.

When predictability (R^2) of these variables was considered it was found that the predictability was more than 50 % in the subgroups classified according to bio - social characteristics as follows :

For Mathayomsuksa 3 male students, future orientation and self-control, perception of school rule and value, teacher's preaching and identity on discipline behaviors and moral reasoning could altogether predict discipline behaviors. The R^2 was .52, and standardized regression equation was

$$\hat{Y} = .6554X_2 + .2396X_{20} + .1718X_{10} + .1259X_1$$

For Mathayomsuksa 3 female students, attitude towards discipline behaviors, future orientation and self - control, perception of school rule and value, child rearing practices and parental identity on discipline behaviors could altogether predict discipline behaviors. The R^2 was .50, and standardized regression equation was

$$\hat{Y} = .6058X_6 + .3659X_2 + .1563X_{20} + .1583X_9$$

For Mathayomsuksa 3 students with low educated parents, future orientation and self - control, attitude towards discipline behaviors, child rearing practices and parental identity on discipline behaviors, perception of school rule and value could altogether predict discipline behaviors. The R^2 was .56, and standardized regression equation was

$$\hat{Y} = .6558X_2 + .3173X_5 + .1711X_9 + .1637X_{20} + .1724X_{19}$$

For Mathayomsuksa 3 students with high educated parents, future orientation and self - control, perception of school rule and value, and attitude towards discipline behaviors could altogether predict discipline behaviors. The R^2 was .53, and standardized regression equation was

$$\hat{Y} = .5957X_2 + .3637X_{20} + .2758X_6$$

It was found that some of the psychological traits and perception of social environment could altogether significantly predict discipline behaviors of Mathayomsuksa 3 students, whereas the predictive value of Prathomsuksa 6 students was not more than 48.70 %.

3. Among students with different bio - social characteristics, it was found that discipline behaviors of Prathomsuksa 6 students were higher than those of Mathayomsuksa 3 students and those of female students in both grades were also higher than those of male students.