School Counselors' Assessment Of The Psychological Counseling And Guidance Services They Offer At Their Schools¹

Okul Psikolojik Danışmanlarının Okullarında Verdikleri Psikolojik Danışma Ve Rehberlik Hizmetlerini Değerlendirmeleri

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Abstract

The study aims to obtain an educational, career, personal, and social assessment of school counselors of the psychological counseling and guidance (PCG) services they offer at their schools. It also evaluates the suggestions of the school counselors as to the conditions required to make the PCG practices in their schools more adequate. The sample group consists of 49 school counselors serving at elementary and secondary levels in Istanbul. The collected data were subjected to quantitative and qualitative analyses. The research results showed that the school counselors offer personal PCG services at a greater level and educational and career PCG services at similar levels. Of the school counselors stating that they offer an adequate level of PCG services, 69.7% are female and 37.5% are male. The school counselors suggested the following to make the PCG services more adequate: School counselors should receive good PCG training, like to perform their profession, thoroughly fulfill their duties and responsibilities, and be given a detailed job definition; supervisors of school counselors should not be their school principals; out-of-field appointments should not be performed; time should be used efficiently; the number of school counselors should be sufficient; school counselors should not be employed at schools where they are not permanently staffed; physical facilities should be adequate and appropriate for PCG services; classroom guidance activities should be performed; teachers and administrators should support PCG services and be offered in-service training to be informed about PCG services.

Keywords: Psychological Counseling and Guidance (PCG), School Counselor, Services

Özet

Araştırmanın amacı, okul psikolojik danışmanların kendi okullarında verdikleri Psikolojik Danışma ve Rehberlik (PDR) hizmetlerini eğitsel, mesleki, kişisel ve sosyal alanlar açısından değerlendirmeleridir. Araştırmada, ayrıca psikolojik danışmanların okullarındaki PDR uygulamalarının hangi şartlarda daha yeterli bir düzeye geleceğine ilişkin önerileri de değerlendirilmektir. Araştırmanın çalışma grubunu, İstanbul ilinde, ilköğretim ve ortaöğretim

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düzeyinde görev yapan 49 okul psikolojik danışmanı oluşturmuştur. Toplanan veriler üzerinde nicel ve nitel çözümleme yapılmıştır. Araştırmanın sonucunda, psikolojik danışmanların kişisel PDR hizmetini daha fazla, eğitsel ve mesleki PDR hizmetini ise birbirine yakın düzeyde verdikleri bulunmuştur. Okul düzeyine göre, PDR hizmetlerini yeterli düzeyde verdiğini belirten psikolojik danışmanların % 75'i ortaöğretimde; % 44'ü ise ilköğretimde görev yapmaktadır. Cinsiyete göre, PDR hizmetlerini yeterli düzeyde verdiğini belirten psikolojik danışmanların % 69.7'si kadın; % 37.5'u ise erkektir. Psikolojik danışmanların PDR hizmetlerinin daha yeterli bir düzeye gelmesi için önerileri şunlardır: Psikolojik danışmanın iyi bir PDR eğitimi alması; mesleğini severek yapması; görev ve sorumluluklarını tam olarak yerine getirmesi; psikolojik danışmanın görev tanımının ayrıntılı olarak yapılması; psikolojik danışmanların yöneticilerinin okul müdürleri olmaması; alan dışı atamaların yapılmaması; zamanın etkili kullanılması; psikolojik danışman sayısının yeterli olması; psikolojik danışmanların kadrolu oldukları okul dışında görevlendirilmemesi; PDR uygulamaları için fiziksel koşulların yeterli ve uygun olması; sınıf rehberlik uygulamalarının yapılması; öğretmenler ve yöneticilerin PDR hizmetlerini desteklemesi ve PDR hizmetleri ile ilgili olarak bilgilenmeleri için hizmet-içi eğitim almalarıdır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Psikolojik Danışma ve Rehberlik (PDR), Okul Psikolojik Danışmanı, Hizmetler

1. Introduction

School counselors are individuals with undergraduate or graduate degrees in psychological counseling and guidance (PCG) (Ergene, 2011), who apply cognitive, affective, behavioral, and systemic intervention strategies (Hackney & Cormier, 2008) to ensure that mentally healthy individuals can fully improve themselves in all of the personal/social, academic, and career domains (American School Counselor Association-ASCA, 2007; Gladding, 2013); can cope with the problems they encounter in these domains; reinforce their mental health (Ergene, 2011); improve their psychological resilience, wellness, and empowerment (Korkut, 2003); and ensure their self-actualization.

The school counselor, who serves at educational institutions, offers counseling and guidance services aid for the student to know and accept his personality which is constantly developing; to make decisions and choices concerning the upper stage; to deal with the problems he encounters; to make the best use of his potential and thus reach self-actualization (Yeşilyaprak, 2001). The school counselors generally fulfill their primal aid activities, namely for individual and group counseling, guidance, consultation, coordination, case management, guidance curriculum, program planning, management and evaluation (ASCA, 2007; Fitch & Marshall, 2004; Kuhn, 2004; Morrissette, 2000; Paisley & Mc Mahon, 2001). And the function of these activities is affected by the variety of grades being taught and student needs. As the needs and developmental features of preschool education, elementary education, secondary education and university students differ from each other, the counseling and guidance services offered vary accordingly. Preschool stage is a critical stage during which the development is fast, the personality structure begins to take shape, the child is affected by his surroundings and is open to any kind of learning (Akgün, 2010; Uz-Baş, 2007). The elementary school stage is an important step for acquiring desired positive personality features, getting ready for secondary school and career orientation (Canel, 2007). The children at the first grade of elementary school experience secondary childhood features until the

fifth grade. From this year on the child enters adolescent and has to deal with bodily, sexual, cognitive, personal and social problems (Baysal, 2004). Therefore, the students' academic, career and personal/social development and harmony should be attended to considering their age and developmental tasks (Ersever, 1992; Korkut-Owen, Owen & Karaırmak, 2013).

It is of great importance that the students carry out academic, career and personal/social developmental tasks. The principal aim of counseling and guidance services is to help the students accomplish successfully the developmental tasks of the developmental stages they are in (Myrick, 2003). It is necessary to attend to the students' academic, career and personal/social development bearing in mind their development, needs and problems. (Ersever, 1992; Korkut-Owen, Owen & Karaırmak, 2013; Yüksel-Şahin, 2008; 2009).

Developmental Guidance and Counseling Program" developed by Myrick in US during the 1960s and the "Comprehensive Developmental Guidance and Counseling Program" propounded by Gysberg and Henderson resulted in the contemporary developments in school guidance and counseling (Gysberg & Henderson, 1997; Özyürek, 2010). Nevertheless, the schools in Turkey do not yet offer developmental psychological counseling and guidance (PCG) services. In fact, developmental PCG services only came to the agenda as a concept during the 18th National Education Council (2010) (Yüksel-Şahin, 2012).

In general, the national literature on the offering of PCG services in schools has found that the PCG services are inadequate in schools (Esmer, 1985; Görkem, 1985; Güvendi, 2000; Hatunoğlu & Hatunoğlu, 2006; Özcelik, İskender & Palancı, 2000; Korkut-Owen & Owen, 2008; Nazlı, 2003; Poyraz, 2007; Yüksel-Şahin, 2002, 2008). The results of the research conducted at the primary school level by Güvendi (2000), Nazlı (2003), Hatunoğlu & Hatunoğlu (2006) and Yüksel-Şahin (2009) also show that the PCG services offered are insufficient. Studies carried out at secondary education level, on the other hand, revealed that students in secondary schools perceive non-PCG activities as the responsibilities of school counselors; that students consider the services they receive from school counselors as inadequate (Esmer, 1985; Görkem, 1985; Hatunoğlu & Hatunoğlu, 2006; Yüksel-Şahin, 2008); and that school counselors lack competence in introducing their responsibilities to students (Hatunoğlu & Hatunoğlu, 2006; Yüksel-Şahin, 2008, 2009). The similarity observed in the results of all these studies demonstrates that PCG services offered from past to present have not yet achieved a satisfactory level. In these studies, PCG services offered by schools were evaluated by students, teachers, and school management. However, there is limited research that involves self-assessment of the PCG services offered by school counselors in their own schools (Hamamcı, Murat & Coban; 2004; Korkut-Owen & Owen, 2008; Nazlı, 2007; Terzi, Ergüner-Tekinalp & Leuwerke, 2011). Hence there is a particular need for selfassessment of the services offered by school counselors. Conducted to assess the PCG services offered by school counselors in Turkish schools based on ASCA's statements (2007), the present study could be significant in determining the current situation, hopefully with useful results. And this could help improve PCG services. As is explained in the theoretical section in particular, the study could also be useful in that it re-highlights

the need to implement in Turkish schools the model of developmental PCG programs currently adopted.

1.2.Purposes Of The Study

The study aims for school counselors to assess the PCG services they offer at their schools in academic, career and personal/social terms. It also evaluates the suggestions of school counselors as to the conditions required to make the PCG practices in their institutions more adequate.

2. Method

Mixed research design was employed in the study. Mixed research design refers to the mixed use of quantitative and qualitative research approaches by the researcher in one or more phases of his/her research. They study used "in-phase mixed design" as a mixed research design. In in-phase mixed design, quantitative and qualitative methods are mixed in one or more phases of the research. This would be best exemplified by a questionnaire including close-ended (quantitative) and open-ended (qualitative) items (Balcı, 2009; Kıral & Kıral, 2011).

2.1. Participants

The sample group consists of 49 school counselors working at elementary and secondary schools in Istanbul. Maximum variation sampling was used in the research as a purposeful sampling method (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2006). The study was carried out with 49 school counselors employed at elementary (25; 51.02%) and secondary public schools (24; 48.98%) who were selected by using the maximum variation sampling method. The selected school counselors work at schools with high (Şişli, Beşiktaş, Bakırköy), moderate (Bahçelievler, Avcılar, Şirinevler), and low (Güngören, Bağcılar, Ümraniye) socioeconomic level. The data on socioeconomic levels were classified on the basis of the Istanbul Life Quality Index from 2009 (Seker, 2010).

2.2. Instruments

"School Psychological Counseling and Guidance Services Assessment Form" and The Personal Information Form" were used for data collection.

2.2.1.School Psychological Counseling and Guidance Services Assessment Form

The School Psychological Counseling and Guidance Services Assessment Form was used to collect data. The form developed by the researcher consists of a total of 18 items, with 17 close-ended questions and 1 open-ended question. The form was developed for school counselors to assess the PCG services they offer at their schools. Relevant literature (ASCA,2007; Fitch & Marshall, 2004; Morrissette, 2000; Myrick, 2003) was reviewed to formulate the items in the form. A form was developed that defines the duties of school counselors under the areas of academic, career, and personal/social development. Opinions of two experts with PhD degrees and research and content knowledge were taken when developing the form. The items were developed to involve academic, career

and personal/social development domains. The form contains 17 close-ended items, to which the participants can respond by "yes" and "no". The 18th item was formulated as an open-ended question. The statements in the form are given in Table 1.

2.2.2. Personal Information Form

Personal Information Form contains questions about the universities-faculties-departments the school counselors graduated from, their gender, and whether the level of PCG services they offer is adequate.

2.3. Data Analysis

The collected data were subjected to quantitative and qualitative analyses. Frequency (f) and percentage (%) calculations were performed for quantitative analysis. Furthermore, bivariate chi-square (X^2) test was performed using the crosstabs technique. Descriptive analysis was made for qualitative analysis. Descriptive analysis involves forming a framework for descriptive analysis, processing the data according to the thematic framework, defining the results, and interpreting the results. During descriptive analysis, a framework was first formed in line with the research question and the data were processed and defined according to the framework (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2006). For the analysis, the counselors were assigned numbers running from 1 to 49. When the counselors are quoted in the presentation of the results, these codes were added at the end of the quotes in the form of N1, N2 etc.

3. Results

The study's results are presented in four main categories in line with the research questions. Table 1 shows the frequency and percentage distributions for the PCG services the school counselors offer at their schools.

Table 1. Frequency and percentage distributions for the PCG services offered by the psychological counselors

	I Offer The Service					
Services Offered by the School counselor	Y		No			
	f	%	f	<u>%</u>		
1. I apply an orientation program by introducing the school (class-rooms, canteen, sports hall, library etc.) to the students and their parents and informing them about the school rules.	47	95.9	2	4.1		
2. I inform students about the compulsory and elective courses offered by the school.	32	65.3	17	34.7		
3. I help students select their courses	33	67.3	16	32.7		
4. I guide students about efficient studying skills.	49	100	0	0		
5. I help students develop academic plans.	47	95.9	2	4.1		
6. I administer tests such as personality, interest, and ability tests so that students can know about their traits better	47	95.9	2	4.1		
7. I inform my students about the outcomes of the tests I administer (personality, interest, ability tests etc.).	44	89.8	5	10.2		

Comings Offered by the School councilor	I Offer The Service Yes No				
Services Offered by the School counselor	f re	s %	f	NO %	
8. I provide students with introductory information about various professions.	47	95.9	2	4.1	
9. I ensure that students are informed about professions by inviting individuals working in various professions to our school.	25	51	24	49	
10. I help students make their professional plans.	45	91.8	4	8.2	
11. I perform activities to improve students' communication skills so that they can improve their interpersonal relationships.	49	100	0	0	
12. I talk to students and inform them about female-male relations.	45	91.8	4	8.2	
13. I perform activities to improve students' relations with their families.	47	95.9	2	4.1	
14. I perform activities to improve students' decision-making skills to help them make healthy decisions.	46	93.9	3	6.1	
15. I perform activities to improve students' problem solving skills to help them solve their problems more efficiently.	44	89.8	5	10.2	
16. I offer individual psychological counseling services.	49	100	0	0	
17. I offer group psychological counseling services.	41	83.7	8	16.3	

As seen in Table 1, 95.9 % of the school counselors offer orientation services, 65.3 % inform students about the compulsory and elective courses offered by the school. 67.3 % help students select courses. 100 % guide students about efficient studying skills. 95.9 % help students develop academic plans. 95.9 % administer tests such as personality, interest, and ability tests so that students can know about their traits better. 89.8 % inform their students about the outcomes of the tests they administer (personality, interest, ability tests etc.), 95.9 % provide students with introductory information about various professions. 51 % ensure that students are informed about professions by inviting individuals working in various professions to their schools. 91.8 % help students make their professional plans. 100 % perform activities to improve students' communication skills so that they can improve their interpersonal relationships. 91.8 % talk to students and inform them about female-male relations. 95.9 % perform activities to improve students' relations with their families. 93.9 % perform activities to improve students' decision-making skills. 89.8 % perform activities to improve students' problem solving skills. 100 % offer individual psychological counseling services to the students in need. 83.7 % offer group psychological counseling services for students in need.

In order to determine whether the assessments of the school counselors about the PCG services offered at their institutions significantly differ according to school level (elementary / secondary), bivariate chi-square (X^2) test was performed, the results of which are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Results of the Chi-Square test on the difference in the adequacy assessments by the school counselors about the PCG services according to school level

School Level	I Offer PCG Services at an Adequate Level								
	Yes		No		Total		-		
	f	%	f	%	f	%	X^2	df	P
Elementary	11	44	14	56	25	100	4.87	1	.03
Secondary	18	75	6	25	24	100			
Total	29	59.2	20	40.8	49	100			

As is clear from Table 2, the bivariate chi-square (X^2) analysis performed revealed a significant difference in the opinions of the school counselors about the PCG services they offer at their institution according to school level $(X^2(1)=4.87, p<.05)$. Given the frequency and percentage distributions, of the school counselors stating that they offer an adequate level of PCG services, 75% are employed at secondary level while 44% work at elementary level.

In order to determine whether the assessments of the school counselors about the PCG services offered at their institutions significantly differ according to gender, bivariate chi-square (X^2) test was performed, the results of which are given in Table 3.

Table 3. Results of the Chi-Square test on the difference in the adequacy assessments by the school counselors about the PCG services according to gender

Gender	I Off	fer PCG S	ervices a	t an Adeq	uate Level		,		
	Yes		No		Total		_		
	f	%	f	%	f	%	X^2	df	p
Female	23	69.7	10	30.3	33	100	4.62	1	.03
Male	6	37.5	10	62.5	16	100			
Total	29	59.2	20	40.8	49				

As is clear from Table 3, the bivariate chi-square (X^2) analysis performed revealed a significant difference in the opinions of the school counselors about the PCG services they offer at their institution according to gender $(X^2(1)=4.62, p<.05)$. Given the frequency and percentage distributions, of the school counselors stating that they offer an adequate level of PCG services, 69.7% are female and 37.5% are male.

The school counselors were asked about their suggestions to make the PCG services more adequate; their responses were analyzed and the results are given in Table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of the school counselors according to their suggestions

Suggestions of the School Counselors to Offer Better PCG Services	f	%
 Psychological counselor training is important: School counselors should receive good professional training (40N) (42N) (43N) PCG training at undergraduate level is inconsistent with the facts of NationalEducation. A negative message is created in the minds of school counselors about employment in academic institutions (1N) (3N) Psychological counselors should definitely specialize (master's-doctoral degrees) (42N) In-service training should be offered to improve the knowledge and skills of school counselors (6N) (9N) (13N) (20N) (21N) (25N) (26N) (36N) (42N) 	15	37.5
2. School counselors should thoroughly fulfill their duties and responsibilities. They should be able to offer full PCG services (19N) (30N) (34N) (36N)	4	10
B. It is important for school counselors to like their profession. This profession should be performed fondly. Burnt-out counselors who do not like the profession damage the profession's image (19N) (42N)	2	5
 School counselors should be given a detailed job definition. Although the duties of school counselors are defined by laws and regulations, they are considered as adequate. So a more detailed job definition is required. (22N) (25N) (27N) (29N) (33N) (37N) 	6	15
 Supervisors of school counselors should not be their school principals. It creates problems when employee personal rights of school counselors (punitive action, rewards etc.) are controlled by school principals. School counselors cannot properly perform PCG services due to administrative problems and fear of authority. Therefore, Guidance and Research Centers should control the employee personal rights of school counselors and supervise them. (1N). School counselors may be supervised by a separate administrator who is competent in the field of PCG and independent from the school administrators (46N) 	2	5
6. Out-of-field appointments should not be performed: It is wrong to appoint the out-of-field graduates of philosophy and sociology departments simply by offering them only a 15-day "in-service" training. Such individuals create problems as they lack therapeutic skills. Thus, out-of-field appointments should not be performed. (1N) (48N)	2	5
7. Secretarial tasks should not be performed by school counselors for efficient use of ime. School secretarial work is unnecessary and time-consuming. So a separate secretary should be hired to perform these tasks. (3N) (9N) (41N)	3	7.5
3. The number of school counselors should be sufficient The number of school counselors appointed to schools as permanent staff should be adequate and parallel to the number of students at schools. The number of school counselors should be sufficient. (1N) (4N) (5N)(8N) (10N) (11N) (17N) (19N) (26N) (30N) (31N) (34N) (36N) (38N) (39N) (41N) (44N) (47N) (48) (49N)	20	50
9. School counselors should not be employed at schools where they are not permanently staffed Counselors should not be employed at schools where they are not a part of the permanent staff. Because this increases the workload of school counselors and reduces their motivation (4N) (5N) (20N) (48N)	4	10
10. Physical facilities should be adequate and appropriate for PCG services • A separate room should be allocated to PCG services (including a projector and various materials to offer psychological consultation, perform creative drama and psychodrama activities etc.) (6N) (9N) (10N) (11N) (13N)(16N) (19N) (22N)(23N) (25N) (26N) (28N) (30N) (31N) (33N) (36N) (37N) (41N) (43N) (44N) (48N) • Adequate physical facilities and continuous support should be offered for counseling services (e.g., computers, printers, internet, sufficient lockers, tables and chairs etc.) (4N) (6N) (13N) (22N) (23N) (25N) (26N) (28N) (31N) (33N) (37N)	32	80

Suggestions of the School Counselors to Offer Better PCG Services	f	%
Classroom guidance activities should be performed Counselors should perform more activities in classrooms (9N). Although the programs in the existing framework were designed for classrooms of 30 students, counselors have to implement them in classes of 60-65 students. Therefore, the number of students in a classroom should not exceed 30 when performing activities (1N) (5N) (10N) (11N) (12N) Classroom guidance activities are neglected by teachers. School management should apply sanctions on teachers to ensure they perform such activities (7N)	7	17.5
12. It is important for teachers to know about and support PCG services Good outcomes can be achieved if teachers lend support to counseling activities (6N) (7N) (12N) (13N) (14N) (16N) (18N) (22N) (23N) (24N) (25N) (28N) (30N) (31N) (33N) (34N) (36N) (37N) (43N) (44N) (45N) (48N) (49N) Teachers should be given in-service training to gain a better understanding of PCG activities (2N) (6N) (14N) (17N) (19N) (20N) (29N) (30N) (33N) (37N) (46N)	34	85
 13. It is important for administrators to know about and support PCG services. Good outcomes can be achieved if administrators support counseling activities (12N) (13N) (14N) (16N) (18N) (23N) (24N) (25N) (26N) (28N) (30N) (31N) (34N) (35N) (36N) (37N) (43N) (44N) (45N) (49N) School administrators should be given in-service training to gain a better understanding of PCG activities (2N) (6N) (9N) (19N) (20N) (22N) (29N) (31N) (37N) (46N) Administrators should apply sanctions on teachers who do not perform classroom guidance activities (7N) 	31	77.5

As seen in Table 4, 37.5 % of the school counselors stated that receiving good training is important; 10% stated that school counselors should thoroughly fulfill their duties and responsibilities; 5 % stated that they should like to perform their profession; 15 % stated that a detailed job definition is required for psychological counselors; 5% stated that supervisors of school counselors should not be their school principals; 5 % stated that out-of-field appointments should not be performed; 7.5% stated that secretarial tasks should not be performed by school counselors to use time efficiently; 50 % stated that the number of school counselors needs to be sufficient; 10 % said that school counselors should not be employed at schools where they are not permanently staffed; 80 % said that physical facilities should be adequate and appropriate for PCG services; 17.5% stated that classroom guidance activities should be performed; and the percentage of those stating the need for support to PCG services and in-service training for information about PCG services was 85 % for teachers and 77.5 % for administrators.

4. Discussion

The study aims for school counselors to assess the PCG services they offer at their schools in academic, career and personal/social terms. It also evaluates the suggestions of school counselors as to the conditions required to make the PCG practices in their institutions more adequate. As a result of the research, it was found that the school counselors offer personal PCG services at a greater level and academic and career PCG services at similar levels. It is crucial for students to successfully fulfill their personal/social, academic, and career developmental tasks. The main function of PCG services is to help students complete the developmental tasks required for their developmental stage (Myrick, 2003). The students' academic, career, personal/social development and harmony should be attended to considering their age and developmental tasks. The school counselors help all students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/

social development and career development, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow (ASCA, 2007).

According to school level, a significant difference was found in the opinions of school counselors about the PCG services they offer at their schools. Of the school counselors stating that they offer an adequate level of PCG services, 75% are employed at secondary level while 44% work at elementary level. As demonstrated by the results obtained by Güvendi (2000), Hatunoğlu & Hatunoğlu (2006), Nazlı (2003) and Yüksel-Sahin (2009) in their studies, PCG services offered at elementary level in Turkey were found to be inadequate. In Turkey, PCG services are more common in secondary education. As was the case in USA, the efforts to introduce PCG services to elementary education came later (Can, 1998b; Can, 2008; as cited in Demir, 2010; Nugent, 1990). PCG services offered to a child during these critical years will clearly help him/her build sound grounds in personal/social, academic, and career terms. Several authors have noted that offering elementary-level PCG services will enhance the efficiency of PCG services to be offered at further education levels (ASCA, 2007; Can, 1998b). In terms of developmental PCG approach, the developmental PCG program currently required should start from the bottom and continue in upward direction since it is a sequential program involving various developmental activities built upon one another.

The difference observed in the opinions of school counselors about the PCG services they offer at their institutions was found to be significant according to gender. Of the school counselors stating that they offer an adequate level of PCG services, 69.7 % are female and 37.5% are male. As an indirectly related result, Korkut (2007) found that female counselors are more aware of the broad service area of professional guidance when compared to male counselors. In another study on psychological counselors, Uslu & Arı (2005) observed no gender-related difference among the efficacy levels of the psychological counselors' physical and psychological listening-counseling skills.

The school counselors suggested the following to make the PCG services more adequate: School counselors should receive good PCG training, like to perform their profession, thoroughly fulfill their duties and responsibilities, and be given a detailed job definition; supervisors of school counselors should not be their school principals; out-of-field appointments should not be performed; time should be used efficiently; the number of school counselors should be sufficient; school counselors should not be employed at schools where they are not permanently staffed; physical facilities should be adequate and appropriate for PCG services; classroom guidance activities should be performed; teachers and administrators should support PCG services and be offered inservice training to be informed about PCG services.

In the study, the school counselors stated the need for receiving good PCG training so that PCG services could be given effectively. In Nazlı's (2007) and Terzi, Ergüner-Tekinalp & Leuwerke's (2011) study, the school counselors stated their wish to enhance their professional development to adapt to the changing system. Today, great emphasis is made on how school counselors should be trained. In the past the undergraduate programs were dissimilar in terms of the number of courses, the types of courses, the number and qualification of university lecturers (Doğan & Erkan, 2001). These differences affect largely the quality of services offered by the psychological counselor. The

academics who dealt with this problem composed the "New Counseling and Guidance Undergraduate Program" with a high participation. While it was being considered that this new program would be applied in universities offering undergraduate studies in counseling and guidance, Higher Education Council (Yuksek Ogretim Kurulu-YOK) also formed independently a new counseling and guidance undergraduate program (YOK, 2007). Even if it is controversial, school counselor education program have been standardized. However, the dissimilarities in terms of the number and qualification of university lecturers of counseling and guidance undergraduate education still exist. For this reason, there is a need to increase the academic standards in undergraduate PCG education programs and to enhance the quality of school counselors in Turkey. In US, every state has its own standards to train psychological counselors, in consideration with the competencies identified by American Counseling Association (ACA), its 19 divisions, and other professional organizations. In addition to the ACA, there are other organizations for certification and ensuring quality assurance. Among these, The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) provides quality assurance accreditation for the programs offered by institutions that train school counselors (CACREP, 2009; Korkut-Owen, 2007) and offers support and guidance services to raise educational standards for school counselors (Bobby & Culbreth, 2007). The National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) functions to enhance the quality of school counselors through certification (Schweiger, Hinkle & Parades, 2007). Our country also needs councils like the CACREP and NBCC in USA. In Turkey, Turkish Psychological Counseling and Guidance Association may perform the duties of such organizations found in US. Within the association, a board could be established with academic members who train psychological counselors. The board could suggest educational standards related to psychological counseling and list the programs that fulfill the criteria. The list could be published on the webpage and the journal. Thus, to be in the list may become an important privilege among PCG departments. The board could cooperate with institutions related to quality assurance in other countries (Korkut-Owen, 2007).

In the study, the school counselors stated that counselors should like to perform their profession and thoroughly fulfill their duties and responsibilities so that PCG services can be offered effectively. Having graduated from universities, school counselors start working at schools, where they are faced with diverse student problems. At times, their knowledge and skills fall short of solving such problems and they are offered any support by teachers, administrators, and families. This leads to stress and burnout in school counselors (Özer, 1998; as cited in; Coban, 2005). School counselors experience a high level of job stress and professional burnout and that they have a low level of job satisfaction. The results of some research carried out on school counselors shows that they experience a high level of job stress and a low level of job satisfaction (Rayle, 2006). Excessive job stress reduces job satisfaction (Morrissette, 2000). It is inevitable that individuals experience job stress. Difficulties and troubles both in personal and professional life cause serious problems for the individual and the institution. When the results of studies carried out on professional burnout which is accepted as a result of excessive job stress are considered, it is seen that burnout is more commonly observed in occupational groups aiming to serve and help and requiring face-to-face contact with people. Individuals who experience burnout are observed to have a higher level of exhaustion,

alienation from work and desensitization (Çapri, 2006). Psychological counseling is in professional burnout risk group as it requires intensive communication with people. A school counselor who experience exhaustion, alienation from work and desensitization along with burnout cannot provide his services sufficiently. Peer supervision is recommended as an effective way for school counselors to cope with their psychological problems such as stress and burnout. Peer supervision is used to deal with psychological and physical problems created in the professional and private lives of psychological counselors. Moreover, it is also used as a way to improve counselors in professional and personal terms (Çoban, 2005).

In the study, the school counselors stated that out-of-field appointments should not be performed. This is in line with findings of some prior studies (for example; Terzi, Ergüner-Tekinal & Leuwerke, 2011). The fact that people without counseling and guidance services training were appointed as school counselors in the past has lowered the quality of these services. Regarding this subject, at the 13th (TCMEB 13. Milli Eğitim Şurası, 1990) and 15th Board of Education Council, it was decided that counseling and guidance services should be conducted by personnel who has received a training in this area at least at bachelor's degree level and that no personnel out of the field should be appointed for guidance services (TCMEB 15. Milli Eğitim Şurası, 1996). However, even though these decisions were made, it was asked philosophy and sociology graduates were given in-service training and were appointed as school counselors in private educational establishments "out of need and for once" in 2003-2004 and 2011; this fact is a dramatic instance of the difficulty in the practice of the decisions taken.

In the study, the school counselors stated the need for efficient use of time. The counselor cannot use his time effectively. School counselor should use his time and energy effectively while carrying out developmental counseling and guidance services. According to Doğan (2001) the counseling and guidance services aid which is going to be offered to the students should start from group guidance, and move on to small group counseling, individual psychological counseling and, lastly, transfer to mental health centers. Counseling and guidance services aid enable the school counselor to be more systematical in his treatments and use his time and energy more economically. Moreover, for the school counselor to use his time more effectively, it is necessary that he is free of duties irrelevant to his job. While ASCA states that school counselors should spend at least 70 % of their time offering direct service to students, studies show that school counselors spend their time performing managerial works along with counseling and guidance services related work (Rayle, 2006). The study carried out by Güven (2003) in Turkey showed that 26.1 % of school counselors are asked to perform duties irrelevant to their duties such as managerial work (% 46.3) and fill in for absent teachers (%34.1). And the school counselors who are forced to perform outside their duties cannot offer sufficient counseling and guidance services. As a result of a study, Hatunoglu & Hatunoglu (2006) found that administrators assign out-of-field duties to school counselors. Likewise, a study by Korkut-Owen & Owen (2008) showed that school counselors spend less time on individual counseling, spending greater time on administrative tasks. Significant differences were found between what school counselors ideally think about the use of time and how they actually use it. School counselors who are forced to perform out-of-field duties fail to offer an adequate level of PCG services. As a matter

of fact, the school counselors in the present study stated that they should be given a detailed job definition and not perform tasks that are found in this definition.

In the study, the school counselors stated that the number of school counselors should be sufficient and school counselors should not be employed at schools where they are not permanently staffed. An important reason behind the inadequate level of PCG services offered is the insufficient number of school counselors. In their studies, Yüksel-Şahin (2002) and Hatunoğlu & Hatunoğlu (2006) found that the number of school counselors at schools is inadequate. Recently, appointing school counselors to kindergartens and employing school counselors in all elementary schools were made compulsory, which increased the need for school counselors both at elementary and secondary levels (Doğan, 2001). The insufficient number of school counselors at our schools and particularly the high number of students in many public schools make it impossible for a psychological counselor to offer PCG assistance to all students and their families (Yüksel-Şahin, 2009). In Turkey, the psychological counselor/student proportion varies between 1:550 and 1:4255. These proportions explain why counseling and guidance services cannot be sufficiently offered (TCMEB Özel Eğitim Rehberlik ve Danışma Hizmetleri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2007). ASCA suggest an ideal proportion of 1:250.

In the study, the school counselors stated that teachers and administrators should support PCG services and be offered in-service training to be informed about PCG services. The school counselors cannot receive the support of administrators and teachers. And an important reason why school counselors cannot receive the support of administrators and teachers is that they have insufficient information, negative views and false expectations on counseling and guidance. In fact, relevant research in the literature (Hamamcı, Murat & Coban, 2004; Hatunoğlu & Hatunoğlu, 2006) demonstrated that administrators lack adequate knowledge about PCG, have negative opinions and incorrect expectations of duties. On the other hand, Korkut-Owen & Owen (2008), Özabacı, Sakarya & Doğan (2008), Camadan & Sezgin (2012), Karataş & Polat (2013) and Sürücü & Yavuz (2013) found in their research that school principals perceive PCG services as important. Administrators and teachers will support school counselors if they have sufficient knowledge, positive views, and a fair expectation of duties about PCG. Then, teachers will apply classroom guidance activities as they believe in their importance. They will work as a team with the psychological counselor. In the study, the school counselors stated that teachers neglect performing classroom guidance activities. The results reported in the relevant research (Güven, 2009; Nazlı, 2003; Terzi, Ergüner-Tekinal & Leuwerke, 2011) also revealed that teachers do not take proper care and interest in guidance activities and lack the necessary skills to perform guidance practices. Alongside teachers, administrators are also crucial in effective implementation of PCG practices. Administrators with the right approach to PCG will provide the human and material conditions required. In fact, the school counselors in the study stated that physical facilities should be adequate and appropriate for PCG services. Hamamo, Murat & Coban (2004) research revealed that school counselors experience problems with school management about provision and copying of necessary tools and materials and allocation of a proper office for counseling.

In order to build a common and adequate PCG notion in teachers and administra-

tors, who are influential in conducting PCG services in cooperation as a team, the PCG courses offered in Education Faculties should be taught by academic staff trained in the field of PCG. On the other hand, school counselors should work as social change agents at schools. In view of the relevant literature, school counselors are now expected to support and lead the change in schools as social change agents; canalize school personnel and teachers in particular (Ametea & Clark, 2005); and to act as school leaders (Ametea & Clark, 2005; Fitch & Marshall, 2004).

Furthermore, the school counselors in the study stated that they should not be supervised by school principals. They also state that they want to be independent from school management and supervised by a separate administrator who is competent in the field of PCG. It is clear that administrators with theoretical and applied knowledge about PCG who take and fulfill their responsibilities will support the work of school counselors and work as team.

5. References

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