

The Investigation of the Prospective Teachers' Attitudes towards the Individuals with Special Needs In Terms Of Some Variables

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EXPENDED ABSTRACT

Purpose

The main purpose of this research is to investigate the prospective teachers' attitudes towards individuals with special needs in terms of some variables. When investigate of the related literature, it gives a result of many works about special education and integrated education. However such a survey gives limited works on the subject as the individuals with special needs. Having not enough work on the attitudes of the teacher candidates on the individuals with special needs puts this paper on an important place for contributing the subject.

The main question of the research follows as "What is the level of the attitudes of teacher candidates on the individuals with special needs?" and sub questions are as followings:

- 1- What is the level of the attitudes of teacher candidates on individuals with special needs?
- 2- Do the attitudes of teacher candidates on the individuals with special needs give different results in according to gender, age, sections, having any relation with the ones who individuals with special needs in their close environment and education and types of individuals with special needs in their close environment?

Method

This research used the survey model methods. The subject of this research is to search the attitudes of teacher candidates on the individuals with special needs according to some particular variables. For that purpose 209 students from the departments such as Turkish Language Teaching, Social Sciences Teaching, Education Science (PDR) and Classroom Teaching from Kafkas University Education Faculty were applied to "attitude scale towards individuals with special needs" which was developed by the researcher of this paper.

The working group of the research were formed that there were the totally 209 teacher candidates that from Classroom Teaching (N=80), Social Sciences Teaching (N=55), Education Sciences (N= 45) and Turkish Teaching (N=29).

The data collection tool was used "attitude scale towards individuals with special needs" was developed by the researcher. The development of this scale was

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done during the fall semester of 2014-2015 among the 180 teacher candidates that from Education Faculty Turkish Teaching, Education Sciences, Classroom Teaching and Social Sciences Teaching. In order to determine the validity of the scale, exploratory factor analysis (AFA) and confirmative factor analysis (CFA) were used in the research. According to those values, it was concluded through that the values are suitable for factor analysis. It was determine as factor analysis result of the scale was 13 items under 3 factors.

Results

The target of this research is to investigate both the attitude level of the teacher candidates on the individuals with special needs and their attitudes on the individuals with special needs by referencing some particular variables.

Focusing on the variable from gender, to see the attitudes of the teacher candidates, it has been seen that the only sensitivity sub level is significant to the favor of female teacher candidates, even though there has not been seen a statistically significant difference in the negative attitude sub levels, liking sub levels and in generally of the scale.

There has not been seen a statistically significant difference in the liking, sensitivity and negative attitude sub levels in the scale in according to the analysis based on age.

There has not been seen a statistically significant difference in the liking, sensitivity and negative attitude sub levels in the scale in according to the analysis based on the sections.

There has not been a significant difference neither in generally of the scale nor in sub levels of scale in according to whether or not individuals with special needs in close environment.

While there has been a significant difference only sensitivity sub level of the scale, there has not been seen a statistically significant difference in the negative attitude sub levels, liking sub levels and in generally of the scale in according to types of individuals with special needs in close environment.

Conclusion and Discussion

Firstly, obtained from the research' result can be said that the liking on the individuals with special needs is relatively high levels, the negative attitudes for the individuals with special needs are relatively low levels and the sensitivity for the individuals with special needs are in high levels.

Respectively obtained from the research' result can be said that attitudes on the individuals with special needs of the teacher candidates are similar in according to age, the section, having any relation with the ones who individuals with special needs in their close environment.