
ABSTRACT

Fieldwork on a therapist's practical knowledge of *Dohsa-hou* application

UWATOKO, Kota

School Counselor, Affiliated Schools and Kindergarten, Faculty of Education, Kochi University

This study focused on the internal processes of a therapist to understand their practical knowledge on *Dohsa-hou* embedded in the context of the case. The fieldwork comprised of four days and three nights psychological rehabilitation camp. The client was an individual with an intellectual disability and autistic tendencies. The therapist was a special-needs school teacher with 15 years of teaching and *Dohsa-hou* experience. Data were collected through observation of the client during sessions and other life situations, as well as therapist interviews. Data were analyzed using micro-ethnography, which focused on applications of *Dohsa* tasks. Subsequently, by using data on life situations as well, the observation and interview data were analyzed to identify the therapist's approach and decision-making process. Findings revealed that "sensory and empirical decisions" were taken based on "the therapist's relationship with the client" and "feedback from the client about therapist's involvement" in the process. These are examples of the practical knowledge that is difficult to observe from the outside and was not explicitly addressed in previous studies.

Key Words: *Dohsa-hou*, therapist's practical knowledge, micro-ethnography, participant observation, fieldwork
