

Effectiveness of Counselling Intervention on Delinquency Prone Students' Academic Achievement

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Abstract

One of the causes of school dropout is poor academic performance. The reason why students leave school early is frequently due to academic underachievement and school failure. Research has consistently highlighted the need for interventions to prevent school failure and dropout. This study assessed the effect of a counselling intervention on the academic achievement of delinquency prone students susceptible to underachievement and school failure, employing an experimental method and using the pretest-posttest equivalent-groups design. A total of 100 delinquency prone students formed the sample of the study, who were randomly allocated to experimental and control groups (N = 50 for each group). Scores of academic achievement for the pretest were collected, and the experimental group participants were exposed to 15 weekly counselling sessions. The control group received no intervention. A posttest of academic achievement was administered to both groups, and the outcomes were compared to evaluate the effect of the counselling intervention. The results suggested a significant improvement in the posttest scores of the experimental group, revealing a large effect size ($\eta^2 = .39$). The results are discussed in the light of past research.

Keywords: counselling, delinquency proneness, school achievement, underachievement, school dropout

Introduction

Delinquency is a serious social problem which escalates public concern when its incidence proliferates and when the severity of a delinquent act by a youth poses a threat to social norms (Loeber et al., 2003). The problem of delinquency remains relatively present across the length and breadth of modern society. Delinquents lack the ability to conform to societal standards (Siegel & Welsh, 2011). Delinquency proneness is an individual's tendency or potential to commit delinquent acts. The prevalence of delinquency proneness among modern youth during their teens and the incidence of delinquency in schools is a common phenomenon. During adolescence, students are likely to commit delinquent acts, initially for

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