

The Evaluation of the Audiometrist Candidates for their Future Work Life

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Abstract: Student who graduates from audiology department bears the title of audiometrist. Audiometrists may work in audiology clinics and otorhinolaryngology departments of hospitals under the supervision of a specialist or has the commercial right to found an audiology center under his auspice. The ones who own an audiology center, may perform hearing tests and at the same time they sell hearing aids.

The aim of this study is to determinate post graduate expectations of the audiology student based on their attitudes for work. This study, will try at the same time the demographic distribution of the audiology student, and their educational background. In order to realize this goal, 74 student who have inscribed to Okan University during the academic years of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. A questionnaire, that was comprised of 12 question the reasons of choosing audiology and on their expectations.

Based on the obtained data, the frequency analysis tables were realized. Some open and questions were evaluated by content analysis. The results of the analysis showed that 42% of students are graduates general high schools, while 32% were graduated from vocational schools and 26% of were graduated from Anatolian high schools. According to analysis result, students have a wide range of scores (differentiates between 187 and 430) obtained from YGS exam. Additionally, the 69 % of the student will has stated the will to work as a audiometrist while 29 % to wants t o have own audiology center . The rest did not manifest any intention to work on the audiology field

Keywords: Audiology, Work Life, Audiology Centers

1. Introduction

Profession is a necessary fact for people to maintain their lives socially and individually. Profession has an active important role that allows a person to interpret the meaning of his life and describe his life [1]. Besides, profession has a great effect on determining personality. It may be said that people who have professions in harmony with their personalities achieve a high level of success and productivity. [2].

It is necessary that people having a profession get qualified by developing themselves within the frame of that profession. A qualified workforce plays a big role in determining the development level of countries. Among the factors cultivating a well-qualified workforce is education. Among the factors necessary to obtain qualified manpower, university education is by far the most important one [3]. Thus, many works have been carried out on improving the educational quality in universities. In this regard, works carried out related to the profile of university students are of capital importance. The cultural, social, economic factors that people take place in and the demographic structure of people have an important place in works performed for such purpose [4].

Academicians serve as a guiding light for the other sections of the society in terms of both education and scientific works. It might therefore be significant that academicians are aware of about student profiles in order for them to improve the quality of the education they will give and lead their students to the right path [5].

While people's love (commitment) for their job makes positive contributions to their future life, people's dislike (negative feelings) of their work makes negative contributions [6], [7]. So to be a good audiometrist, love for the profession of audiometrician is every bit as much important as field knowledge.

Audiometrist candidates will practice their profession more lovingly and be more successful later in life if they take a positive attitude towards the profession.

This work has been carried out with the aim of identifying the demographic structure of audiometrist candidates and determining their future plans in their professional life after graduation.

2. Methodology

In this work, the research method which Çoramık M. and etc. (2012) and Büyüköztürk and etc. (2009) used has been utilized [8], [9]. The scope of the this study comprise 90 students attending first class of audiometry program at Okan University vocational health high school. Seventy four students were reached as sampling. The students has 5% inaccuracy rate while having 95% confidence level.

Sample

Sampling in this work consists of 74 students who are first or second year students of the Vocational School of Health Services, Okan University in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Data Collection Tool

In this work the form "Reasons for Preferences about Audiometry Department Questionnaire" developed for the audiometrist candidates has been used. The form has 12 questions. It consists of two separate sections. In the 1st section, 7 questions are asked to obtain the personal information about the audiometrist candidates, while 5 open-ended questions are asked in the 2nd section.

1st Section's Questions

Gender

High school type

Age

Placement score for associate degree (the YGS)

How many of the preferences you made as per the result of the associate degree program placement examination (the YGS) were the audiometry programme

What was the rank of the programme which you have gained admission to among the preferences you made as a result of the associate degree program placement examination

Are there any audiometrists in your family

2nd Section's Questions

What is your reason for preference for the audiometry programme

What are your expectations from the audiometry programme

What are your plans for the future after graduation from this department

In your opinion, what characteristics do you think should a audiometrist have

What reasons do you have for choosing the profession of audiometrician

Data Analysis

The answers provided in the first section of the form (questionnaire) have been tabularized together with their percentages according to their frequency.

In the second section of the form, the audiometrist candidates have given more than one answer to the same question. Similar answers have been gathered together and their frequency has been identified. The frequency analyses have been determined according to the number of their answers.

3. Result

Gender

Gender	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
Female	53	71
Male	21	29
Total	74	100

It is seen that 71% of the audiometrist candidates, which is a large part, is female and 29% is male.

High school type

Type of high school you graduated from	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
General High School	31	42
Vocational High School	24	32
Anatolian High School	19	26
Total	74	100

It is seen that 42%, 32%, 26% of the candidates who have preferred the audiometry programme are in general high school, vocational high school and Anatolian high school respectively. In Turkey, the educational quality of Anatolian high schools is higher. Due to the moderate level of education of general high schools, it can be said that the audiometrist candidates have not a very high level of high school education.

Age

Age	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
18-19	33	45
20-21	28	38
22-23	5	7
>24	8	10
Total	74	100

In Turkey, 18 is the age to start university education. It can be seen that the great majority of the audiometrist candidates, which is 82%, started universities straight out of high school.

Placement score for associate degree (the YGS)

core	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
180-200	12	16
201-220	14	19
221-240	12	16
241-260	7	9
261-280	8	11
281-300	6	8
301-320	4	5
>321	11	15
Total	74	100

In order to gain the right to enter a university in Turkey, one needs to get more than 180 points in the YGS. The score range of audiometrist candidates is quite broad varying between 180 and 320. While there are students who have come with a very good high school education, there are also students who have come with poor scores

How many of the preferences you made as per the result of the associate degree program placement examination (the YGS) were the audiology programme

Are there any audiometrist in your family	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
1-2	27	36
3-4	21	28
5-6	11	15
>7	15	20
Total	74	100

What was the rank of the programme which you have gained admission to among the preferences you made as a result of the associate degree program placement examination.

Are there any audiometrist in your family	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
1-2	27	36
3-4	21	28
5-6	11	15
>7	15	20
Total	74	100

65% of the audiometrist candidates have gained admission to one within their first three preferences. That the audiometrist candidates achieved one of their first three preferences can be caused by their deep interest in this profession.

According to the result derived from their interest in this programme, the possibility that the audiometrist candidates will be successful after graduation is high.

Are there any audiometrists in your family

Are there any audiometrist in your family	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
Yes	71	96
No	3	4
Total	74	100

It has been found out that 96% of the audiometrist candidates do not have a audiometrist within their family

What is your reason for preference for the audiology programme

Answers	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
I love the healthcare sector and I think it suits me	22	30
Because there are so many business opportunities	18	24
Because it is a cushy job	14	19
Due to the advice of people around me	9	12
	6	8
In order to engage in trade regarding healthcare		
Due to my interest in sign language and the hearing impaired	5	7
Total	74	100

It is seen that the main reason why the audiometrist candidates chose the audiology programme is their love for audiology (30%). Business opportunities rank second with 24% and its being a cushy job ended up with 19%

19%. The audiometry programme has easier working conditions compared to other professions related to healthcare. For example, it has no guard duties. It doesn't deal with body fluids such as blood and urine.

What are your expectations from the audiometry programme

Answers 9	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
Increase of business opportunities	25	32
To be trained as a successful and educated audiometrist	15	20
Increase of the opportunities to help people	10	13
Nothing	10	13
To be appointed as a audiometrist to the governmental institutions	9	12
Increase of the opportunities for top-up bachelor's degree	4	5
To simplify opening auditory centers	4	5
<i>Total</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>100</i>

As for the expectations of the students about audiometry, the answer “increase of business opportunities 34%” is the highest. The economic conditions in Turkey can be considered to have a great effect on this answer. Furthermore, the high rate of unemployment among graduates can also be thought to have an influence.

What are your plans for the future after graduation from this department

Answers 10	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
To own an auditory center	27	29
To top up to undergraduate degree	26	28
To work anywhere	19	20
To be appointed to the governmental institutions	8	9
To help people with hearing loss by developing my sign language	7	8
To be a good audiometrist	6	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>100</i>

Audiometrists can work in Turkish hospitals and auditory centers. Also, they have the authority to open auditory centers, too. A major part of the audiometrist candidates wish to open an auditory center after graduation. Both hearing tests and the sale of hearing aids are carried out in auditory centers. The owners of auditory centers are at a higher level in an economic sense compared to those working as a audiometrist.

In your opinion, what characteristics do you think should a audiometrist have

Answers 11	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
Should be careful and self disciplined	30	17
Should establish good communication and be respectful	29	16
Should be debonair, helpful and tolerant	29	16
Should be patient	25	14
Should be very good at his field and develop himself	24	13
Should be understanding	18	10
Should love his job	11	6
Should be fair	8	5
Should learn sign language	5	3
Total	179	100

As for the most important of the traits audiometrists should have, the answers “being careful, self disciplined, having strong communications skills, being respectful, debonair, helpful, tolerant and patient” are comparatively high.

What reasons do you have for choosing the profession of audiometrician

Answers 12	The Number of Audiometrist Candidate	%
It is the job I love	23	31
It is a cushy job	22	30
It has a lot of business opportunities	19	26
The advice of my relatives and teachers	10	13
Total	74	100

In the answers to reasons for loving the profession of audiometrician, three answers have proved to be much higher with their rates close to one another. These answers centred around love for the profession, the profession’s being cushy and muchness of business opportunities.

4. Conclusion and Discussion

It has been observed that majority of the audiometrist candidates are females. Since it is considered as an easy profession, it has been preferred mostly by the women. Among the audiometrist candidates, the reasons of preference may be gathered under 3 main headings. The first one is sympathy for audiometry. The second reason is availability of work opportunities. The third one is its having more comfortable working conditions compared to other professions in the healthcare sector. Besides the availability of work opportunities, there is a large number of candidates who want to have their own auditory centers. These candidates do not only desire to be in the healthcare sector, but also they want to engage in trade in connection with health. They wish to increase their income to by means of trade. The audiometrist candidates preferred this profession knowingly and lovingly upon a research on the field. That the audiometrist candidates ended up with a high rate of love for this

profession is a sign, according to the studies of Erdemir (2010)[7] and Zafer Tanel and Rabia Tanel (2013)[6], that they will be succesful in their professional life

5. References

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