

Chapter 13

THE IMPACT OF THE EMPATHY TRAINING ON THE EMPATHIC SKILL AND TENDENCY

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INTRODUCTION

The empathy as a term has gained significance in the media, academia, national and international policies, arts, etiquette, the training of the health professionals as well as the patient and geriatric care in the second half of the century (Coplan, 2014). It is thought that there is no sufficient study towards the development of such a skill with this amount of popularity and importance. In the majority of the studies on this subject, empathy was shown as a skill that can be developed and with importance for human relations. Recently, it has become an important tool for health professionals along with the improved health and social sciences.

For the empathy training, primarily the didactic teaching used in this study, as well as role-playing, experiential training technique, modeling technique and creative drama can be used. Development of these techniques can be traced back to the studies of Rogers. Rogers is the first scientist that used the empathy program in his studies. Rogers (1951) in his study tried to increase the effective communication characteristics needed to be found in a consultant so that the counselor can help change the behaviors of the consultees.

Truax and Carkhuff (1967) studied the didactic teaching, performing applications and giving feedback to the applications within empathy training. This study was followed by the studies that tried to determine the best way of empathy training (Lehman, 1973; Payne et al., 1972; Perry, 1975 and Skovholt, 1974).

In the literature analysis conducted for the study, workers of various fields were given training to improve their skill to empathize with consideration of the regulative, developing and constructive impacts of empathy on the human relations and communication (Avery & Thiessen, 1982; Blair & Fretz, 1980; Dawson et al., 1992; Egan, 1975; Fine & Therrien, 1977; Herbek & Yammariona, 1990; McEuen, 1985 and Ward and Stein, 1975).

The insufficiency of the studies analyzing the impact of empathy training and

sults, it is thought that the empathy training, which is prepared by the didactic teaching model, will become an important tool in increasing empathic skill.

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