

Influence of Field Practicum on Developing Professional Competencies: An Exploratory Study on Qualifications from Specialized Training Colleges in Japan

** Norihiro Miho*

Kyoto University of Advanced Science, Japan

Chiaki Matsuo

Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan

Moriki Terada

Kyoto University of Advanced Science, Japan,
Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University, Japan

**Corresponding author: miho.norihiro@kuas.ac.jp*

ABSTRACT

In this study, we reviewed variables of professional competencies and constructed a new scale for measuring them. An exploratory factor analysis of 125 students at specialized training colleges and universities led us to define four factors: “Professional Outlook and Sense of Responsibility for Work,” “Work Management Skills,” “Technology and Job Creativity,” and “Collaboration and Communication Orientation.” We also examined the impact of various experiences, such as practical training, on these factors. Hierarchical multiple regression analysis showed that, in addition to field practicum, learning behaviors during training positively contributed to the formation of professional competencies.

Keywords: professional competencies, specialized training colleges & higher vocational education, practical training, scale structure, specialized training colleges and university students