

Varangkana Somanandana 2006: The Effects of the Buddhist Group Counseling on Developing Systematic Attention and Effective Conversation for Secondary School Students. Master of Arts (Educational Psychology and Guidance), Major Field: Educational Psychology and Guidance, Department of Educational Psychology and Guidance. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Apa Chantharasakul. Ed.D. 193 pages. ISBN 974-16-1650-3

The purposes of this research were (1) to study the effects of the Buddhist group counseling on developing systematic attention and effective conversation for secondary school students (2) to study students' opinions toward the group counseling program and the group leader ability. The research hypothesis was that the posttest scores on systematic attention and effective conversation of the experimental group would be higher than its pretest scores.

The study was the pretest-posttest single experimental group design, and the experimental group was 12 students in the Mathayomsuksa five at Mahaprutaram Girls' School under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen. The experimental group participated in the group counseling program for 12 sessions, one and a half hour per each session, approximately 18 hours. The instruments used in this study were a Systematic Attention Test for Secondary School Students, and an Effective Conversation Evaluation Questionnaire. The data were analyzed by using the Wilcoxon Matched Pairs Signed – Rank Test.

The results indicated that, (1) the posttest scores on the systematic attention and the effective conversation of the experimental group were higher than its pretest scores at .05 level of significance. (2) The students who participated in the group counseling program reported that they learned how to explore their thinking, feeling and behaviors, and they were sharing with group members about their experience on difficult conversation in many situations. They also had opportunity to learn about the experience of using systematic attention and effective conversation step by step in the group that really help them to solve their problem about difficult conversation.

Varangkana Somanandana  
Student's signature

Apa Chantharasakul  
Thesis Advisor's signature

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