

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

THE WORLD VIEWS OF SELECTED TAIWANESE: IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNSELING PRACTICE

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to examine the world views of young adult Taiwanese, in order to draw out some indigenous values, beliefs and thoughts that may be relevant to effective counseling in the Taiwanese setting. The researcher examined respondents' world views by asking the following questions:

- a. Can you describe what is life?
- b. What can you say about human nature?
- c. What can you say about the world?
- d. In your opinion, what are the causes of people's problem?
- e. In your opinion, what is the best way to live in society?

The study was descriptive in nature. The two hundred subjects for this study, whose ages ranged between 18-40 years old, were selected by non-probability, incidental sampling.

The data were translated from Chinese to English, and back-translated for cross-checking. Then, content



analysis was employed wherein the responses were classified into different clusters according to the similarity of ideas. Two trends emerged in the responses about life. On one hand, respondents hold a practical, positive view toward life, while on the other hand, a passive, disappointed view was shown. The rest of the respondents referred to life in a neutral, descriptive way.

Human nature was described in different ways (a) human nature is good; (b) Human nature is originally good but will have changes later on; (c) Human nature is not good; (d) Human nature is both good and bad, is contradictory; (e) Human nature is neither good nor bad; (f) Human nature is good or bad; (g) Human nature is under the influence of environment.

In the main, one half of the sample showed a negative view towards the world which was described as filled with human desires and in the state of chaos. The other half viewed this world as positive and hopeful.

Three fourths of the respondents attributed the causes of people's problem to human desires and the



weakness of human nature (e.g., fame, fortune, money, power, profits, privilege, selfishness and greed).

The responses on the best way for living were diverse. Many of them conform to the ancient Chinese philosophy of life (i.e., to be a person of virtue, be contented always, follow the inactive philosophy...).

Finally, the implications of these world views for counseling were discussed within Sue's framework which is based on the psychological orientations of locus of control and locus of responsibility.

