

The Personal Characteristics of Effective Professional Counselor

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Abstract. The counselor has the relationships with the counselee and counseling process. The counselee is the person who comes for counseling who has a problem that need helps, to overcome the problem. Counseling is an educational procedure with good teaching techniques. According to Carl Rogers, effective counseling consists of a definitely structured, permissive relationship which allows the counselee to gain an understanding of himself/herself to a degree which enables him/her to take positive steps in the light of his/her new orientation. (Drakeford, 1961, p. 56.) A counselor is the one who is familiar with counseling skills based on the education and experiences background. A counselor has a personality which is "inherently helpful", that is characterized by warmth, sensitivity, understanding, concern and a willingness to comfort people in an attitude of love.

Key Words: professional counseling, effective counseling, empathy

The word counselor has the relationship with the counselee and counseling process. The counselee is the person who comes for counseling, those who urge them to receive counseling, are interested in change. In one way or another, the uppermost concern is to change their life.

Possibly they seek relief from depression or worry or fear or mysterious, voices speaking out of nowhere. They are anxious to learn how to get along with others, how to communicate with others. Anyone of these or dozen of others problems impel people everywhere to seek counsel of others, hoping they will provide the change that will bring peace and joy. Counselors are people who try to help them affect that change. Many of these people who counsel are well meaning and enter the field from altruistic motives; others are themselves confused, seeking answers.

Next the writer would try to explain briefly about the counselor's personal characteristics, the discussion will begin with the

explanation of counseling because to understand the personal characteristics of a counselor, it's important to know about counseling.

Counseling

The word counseling has come to a position of prominence in our vocabularies. It is a popular "conversion piece" and people speak with easy familiarity of inferiority complexes, nervous, breakdowns, hypnosis, and the analyst's couch. Some see this as an expression of our age of anxiety, while others look upon the whole thing as merely a modern fact that will go the same way as bustles. (Drakeford, 1961, p.3.)

Counseling is indeed an ambiguous enterprise. It is done by persons who can't agree on what to call themselves, what credentials are necessary to practice, whether to deal with feelings, thoughts or behaviors, whether to focus on the past or the present. (Kottler & Brown, 1996, p.13.)