



Name: Lerkkanen, Jukka
Designation: Head of Department
Organization: JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Teacher Education College, Counsellor Education
Contact Information: Jukka Lerkkanen, Jamk / aokk, Rajakatu 35, 40200 Jyväskylä, Finland.
email: jukka.lerkkanen@jamk.fi
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About the Presenter:

Dr. Jukka Lerkkanen works as the Head of Department at the JAMK University of Applied Sciences in Jyväskylä, Finland. He is responsible for the development of the teacher education programmes. Since 1996 he has been developing and implementing initial and in-service programmes for career practitioners in Finland. In 2002 his doctoral dissertation focused on the student readiness for career decisions and he has been developing tools and training materials to promote the development of career management skills of students in different educational settings. He has membership in numerous national thematic working groups in the field of lifelong guidance.

Title of Paper: **The Use of Screening Tools in Finnish High School Education**

Abstract:

The aims of this study were to investigate 1) the amounts of dysfunctional educational and career thoughts and 2) the extent to which the dysfunctional thoughts are associated with the students' need for guidance and their use of counseling services in the high school context. Dysfunctional thoughts and career problems were approached using a Cognitive Information Processing model (CIP model, Peterson, Sampson & Reardon 1991) and the model based on cognitive psychology findings (Beck 1976).

A Screening of Need for Guidance based on the CIP-model. In the Screening questionnaire there are items which represent dysfunctional career thinking and also items which are topical in the discussion of Finnish High School Education like depression, aimlessness and external or internal control in decision making.



The sample consisted of Finnish high school students (N=252). In the factor analysis of the Screening of Need for Guidance, three dimensions of dysfunctional educational and career thoughts were found: Difficulties in beginning the choice process, Difficulties in committing to career choice and Difficulties with important people.

The amount of dysfunctional thoughts and the factor scores indicated the high level needs for guidance. The overall findings of this study suggest to development need-based counseling and guidance systems. The high-school students need more and various way given support in their career decision making process.