

POS-200

Efforts Toward Qualifying Music Therapy as a National Qualification in Japan

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Abstract

Theoretical Background

There have been episodes of the therapeutic use of music in ancient Japan, mainly in the form of religious rituals. Music therapy in the modern sense began to be practiced and studied in the late 1960s and 1970s. Private certification was issued in Japan in 1997, and there has been a movement toward recognizing it as a national qualification since then. At that time, the movement was frustrated, but once again, the movement toward the realization of national qualification has begun through evidence-based practical research.

Aim

The purpose of this presentation is to chronologically introduce and evaluate attempts to qualify music therapy as a recognized national qualification. This study reveals the background behind the abandonment of previous efforts to qualify music therapists and indicates what has been learned to help make the qualification of music therapy successful.

Method

- 1) Survey of music therapy-related organizations and their roles from the 1970s to the 1990s.
- 2) Investigation of how those organizations were integrated into a unified domestic organization.
- 3) Examine how a music therapy national qualification was encouraged and canceled.
- 4) Indicate how a music therapy national qualification was reconsidered in the 2010s.

Results

In the 1990s, many music therapy-related organizations were formed. One of the reasons why so many organizations existed was the difference in the philosophies behind each form of music therapy. However, in order to request the national qualification of music therapists, it was necessary for each group to unite, thus eliminating the differences in their approaches. One of the reasons why national qualification efforts stopped at that time was that it was difficult to obtain a unified view of what level of national qualifications to aim for. The reason for reconsidering the national qualification of music therapy was that the World Music Therapy Association congress was held in Japan and the need for music therapy is increasing.

Conclusions

If the therapeutic use of music is nationally supported, further practice and research will be promoted in special needs music education. Considering the difference between education and clinical practice, the application of music therapy to special needs education is expected more than ever.