

THE POWER OF HOPE: THE RELATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AMONG INJURED WORKERS

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the relationship between injured workers' psychological health and social participation and to verify the buffering effect of hope in this relationship. For this purpose, quota sampling was carried out with injured workers nationwide, and a survey was conducted with 463 persons. With the collected data, the moderating effect was verified, using hierarchical regression analysis method. The results of the analysis are summarized as follows:

First, it was found that psychological health of injured workers had a negatively significant impact on their social participation. In other words, the level of social participation in the psychologically unhealthy injured workers became lower. Second, injured workers' hope had a positive impact on their social participation. Therefore, it was confirmed that the injured workers with a high level of hope participated in social activities, more actively. Third, it was found that hope played a moderating role in the relationship of a negative impact of injured workers' psychological health on their social participation. There was no significant difference in the level of social participation according to psychological health in a group of workers with low hope, but the psychologically healthier, the more increase in social participation became in the group of workers with high hope. This shows that hope buffers the difference in the level of social participation according to injured workers' psychological health condition, and it is understood that even injured workers with high psychological hardships such as depression, anxiety, anger and somatization due to a disaster become more likely to make an active effort for social participation if they have hope for life.

Social participation is the ultimate goal of the policy on compensation and rehabilitation for injured workers. Thus, for injured workers' rehabilitation and return to society, it is necessary to make an effort to protect them from the risks of life because of industrial disasters by intervention to allow them to have hope as well as the recovery of their psychological health.

Keywords: Injured Workers, Psychological Health, Social Participation, Hope