**Practical Ethics and Cultural Competence**

**Gangyan Si**

**Practical Ethics Training and Experiences:**

As a master’s student majored in sport psychology at Wuhan Institute of Physical Education, China, during 1984-1987 (master’s program lasted three years in China), I started my formal training in professional ethics. Sport Psychology Ethics was one of topics in the required learning courses. The learning task involved attending seminars, joining the class discussions and completing a report. I was supervised by my master’s supervisor professor Qiu Yi-Jun who was one of the pioneers of our profession in China. As the first group master’s students in sport psychology in China in mid 1980’s, we didn’t have specific textbook from local background, so we used ISSP professional ethics as the guidance material to study this professional ethics/code. We had mainly learnt and discussed the General Principles including principle A: competence; principle B: consent and confidentiality; principle C: integrity; principle D: personal conduct; principle E: professional and scientific responsibility. These general principles had been further applied and discussed during the period of internship of the master’s program.

During my late sport psychology practice in China, I was a member of Managing Council of Chinese Association of Sport Psychology and involved in organizing practical ethics workshop in the national conference in 2005 in Wuhan and joined panel discussion to share my working experience in the area. I was also one of the key members in the group which developed Chinese accreditation system of sport psychology consultant, part of my task was involved in the professional ethics.

**Cultural Competence:**

I was deeply experiencing that cultural difference when I took my Ph.D. study in Bielefeld University, Germany during May 1990 – Nov 1993. I was clearly aware of a kind of ability/competence which could help understand and adapt to the environment well. The research area of my Ph.D. dissertation was related to a cultural comparison of achievement motivation in sports between Germany and China, so I attended several seminars in psychology department of Bielefeld University to learn cultural issues/topics. My Ph.D. training in Germany helped me a lot understand the cultural diversity, difference and similarity. I was also supervised referring to the cultural knowledge and skills by Prof. Dieter Hackfort when I took one year post-doctoral research in 1997 in his institute at Munich.

My awareness, knowledge and skill regarding cultural competence had been strengthened further when I took the job as the head of sport psychology center at Hong Kong Sports Institute. Hong Kong has a typical environment with the cultural diversity. When I started my career at HKSI, we had 15 sports there, the coaches came from America, Europe, Asia (e.g., Japan, mainland China), and HK. I needed a good competence to interact effectively with the coaches from various cultural backgrounds. I self-learnt as well as attended seminars at the universities in HK to understand cultural diversity and inclusiveness further. I understand that the core meaning of cultural competence of sport psychology is that professionals are able to provide culturally appropriate/efficient service to their clients. The cultural competence could be developed through training. I continue to attend professional training and engage in symposia/workshops on this topic at major international conferences.

I was invited by the ISSP to have a keynote presentation for the 10th World Congress of Sport Psychology, at Skiathos, Greece, June 2001, my topic was “East Meets West – Indigenous and cross-cultural analysis of sport and exercise psychology”. I also presented a keynote presentation regarding the Cultural Competence for the 7th Asian-South Pacific Association of Sport Psychology Congress, at Tokyo, Japan, August 2014.