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A Study on the Effects of Major Satisfaction on Career Maturity and Intention to Continue Studying of Cabin Crew Department Students

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ABSTRACT

출산율이 낮아지면서 대학에 진학하는 학생인구도 점차 줄어들고 있다. 본 연구는 항공서비스를 전공하는 대학생의 학업지속의향에 영향을 미치는 요인을 살펴봄으로써 전공만족, 진로성숙도, 학업지속의향의 관계를 규명하는 것을 목적으로 한다. 본 연구의 목적을 달성하기 위한 자료 수집은 전국의 4년제 항공서비스학을 전공하는 학생들을 대상으로 설문지를 받았으며, 이를 통해 결과를 분석하였다. SPSS 21.0 프로그램을 통하여 전산 처리하였다. 본 연구의 가설검증 결과를 요약하면 다음과 같다. 첫째, 주요만족은 진로성숙도의 하위변수인 결정성, 목적성, 확실성, 준비성, 독립성에 유의한 영향을 미치는 것으로 확인되었다. 둘째, 전공만족이 학업지속의향에 유의한 영향을 미치는 것으로 나타났다. 셋째, 진로성숙도는 학업지속의향에 영향을 미치는 것으로 확인되었으며, 하위변수별 결정성, 준비도, 독립성에 유의한 영향을 미치는 것으로 나타났다.

Key Words : Aviation Service Major(항공서비스전공), Student(학생), Major Satisfaction(전공만족), Career Maturity(진로성숙도), Intention to Continue Studying(학업지속의향)

I. INTRODUCTION

Currently, only 40,913 students will enter the university in year 2020, and the number will continue to decrease to 373,470 by year 2024 due to the low fertility rate (Ministry of Education). As a result, 120,000 students do not meet the university's current admission quota. A number of universities have conducted online

classes in recent weeks due to COVID-19. Many students gave up on their studies due to these online classes, which made it difficult for them to navigate their career paths and lowered their academic motivation. Student dropouts lead to a decrease in the number of students enrolled. Since it is directly related to the financial management of the university, preventing academic abandonment is important for securing the competitiveness of the university. Therefore, many universities are thoroughly managing their students and are making efforts to find reasons why students drop out of their studies(Jung, 2021). Universities located in rural areas are currently experiencing a crisis compared to the ones located in the capital city. In order to avoid closure, universities located in rural areas are aiming to secure competitiveness that helps retain students (Lim, 2019). Particularly in rural

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areas, where most universities with departments related to cabin crew are located, students abandoning their studies is considered a more serious problem. The intention to continue studying is an important factor related to university evaluation indicators such as student dropout and enrollment rate (Tinto, 1975). This study seeks to identify factors which reduce students' abandonment of their studies and encourage them to continue studying. Applicants to the cabin crew department usually choose their major and career path before entering the university. After admission, students face more difficulties in their major, and satisfaction levels are lower than those in other departments (Min, Kim, and Lee, 2019). Students' intentions to continue their studies can be affected by a variety of factors, and if they are not satisfied with their major, they may give up.

Therefore, this study intends to analyze the relationship between major satisfaction and career maturity through a study on factors that affect the academic continuity intention of cabin crew major students. Based on the results of the study, it is intended to be useful in reducing the dropout rate and increasing the intention to continue studying through the satisfaction of cabin crew major students.

II. BODY

2.1 Theoretical Background

2.1.1 Major satisfaction

Comparison of students' career paths and major evaluation results in major satisfaction. In addition, it is a perspective of cognitive comparison between alternatives, such as whether one major is better or worse than another (Cranny, Smith, and Stone, 1992). Kim and Ha (2000) defined major satisfaction as "It is the product of a judgment process that evaluates the department to which one is currently

affiliated in comparison with the criteria for career or occupation set by an individual" with a focus on the concept of life satisfaction in the cognitive aspect. Besides considering abilities, aptitudes, or interests, students also consider factors such as life satisfaction, motivation to choose a major, academic performance, career development, self-efficacy, and goal orientation when selecting a major. As a result, the importance of major satisfaction has been emphasized (Lent and Brown, 2006). Jung and Park (2009) predicted that major satisfaction would be high if the student himself/herself currently belongs to the department matches their ideal or criteria for future career or occupation. Do, J. I. (2017) categorizes the major satisfaction questions into recognition, subject, general, and relationship satisfactions, which have a positive effect on college life adaptation. Nevertheless, Lounsbury et al. (2003) viewed the constituent factors of major satisfaction as a single element and explained the concept of major satisfaction as being comparable to job satisfaction.

2.1.2 Career maturity

Fouad (1988) defined career maturity as the degree of readiness that an individual can solve when faced with career-related problems presented in their age group. Oh (2008) said that career maturity is a comprehensive concept about the degree to which an individual has a completed consciousness when considering a career path. Jo and Park (2017) described career maturity as the degree to which an individual develops an attitude to choose a career after planning and setting a career direction. Park (2018) defined career maturity as the degree to which one is prepared to solve and cope with career-related problems in the developmental stage, and the sub-factors were planning, attitude toward work, self-knowledge, and career behavior.

2.1.3 Intention to continue studying

As described by Shim (2003), the intention to continue learning is the desire to continue the current learning process. And in the study of Grier-Reed et al. (2012), learning continuity intention was related to participation attitude, goal achievement, career self-efficacy, and future orientation. Learning intentions include the desire to learn, overcoming temptations or competitive tendencies that impede learning, and the ability to continue learning activities, including effort, perseverance, and attention (Yoo, 2014). Intention to continue study refers to the intention of a student to enroll in the next semester in order to continue their studies at the university they are currently attending. This has been confirmed as the best predictor of academic continuity through research by several scholars (Choi, 2014). Jung (2021) analyzed factors affecting the academic continuity intention of small local private university students, and defined the intention to graduate at the current university as academic continuation intention.

2.2 Research Design

2.2.1 Research model and hypothesis

An (2016) found that students' major satisfaction had a significant effect on leave of absence and dropout. In the study of Eo (2011), the higher the satisfaction with career counseling, the higher the major satisfaction, and the higher the major satisfaction, the higher the career maturity. Jung et al. (2013) investigated the effect of career maturation on students' college life adjustment and academic continuity intention, and found that career maturity affects the intention to keep studying, followed by self-esteem and academic self-efficacy.

Based on the results of the previous studies above, the following hypotheses were established (Fig. 1).

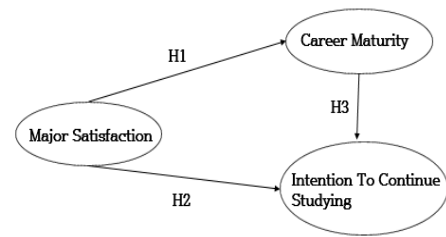


Fig. 1. Research model

- H1: Major satisfaction will have a significant effect on career maturity.
- H2: Major satisfaction will have a significant effect on the intention to continue studying.
- H3: Career maturity will have a significant effect on academic continuity intention.

2.2.2 Operational definition and measurement of variables

The questionnaire in this study consisted of three factors: major satisfaction, career maturity, and intention to continue studying, and the measurement items were composed based on previous studies. The major satisfaction measure was defined as the degree of satisfaction with recognition and preference of cabin crew department students' major. And the questionnaire items were modified and supplemented to fit the purpose of the study based on the literature review, and consisted of an 8-item Likert 5-point scale. Career maturity was conceptualized as the degree to which cabin crew department students developed an attitude to solve and cope with career-related problems, set their own career direction, and independently decide their career path. The questionnaire was reconstructed to match this study and measured on a 23-item 5-point scale. A four-item Likert 5-point scale is used to measure intention to continue studying at the university where the cabin crew department student currently attends, and to enroll in the following semester.

In order to collect data for the study, a questionnaire was administered to cabin crew students at four-year universities nationwide, and data was processed through SPSS 21.0.

First, a frequency analysis was conducted to find out about the general characteristics of the subjects. Second, exploratory factor analysis was performed to analyse the validity of the measurement tool, and Cronbach's α coefficient was used for reliability analysis. The third step was to conduct a correlation analysis to determine a relationship between the major variables. Fourth, regression analysis was performed to verify the hypothesis.

2.3 Empirical Analysis

2.3.1 General characteristics

Table 1 shows the results of frequency analysis to find out the general characteristics of the subjects.

2.3.2 Verification of validity and reliability of measurement tools

Table 1. General characteristics

Config		Freq. (N)	Percent (%)
Sex	Male	41	20.7
	Female	157	79.3
Grade	Year 1	59	29.8
	Year 2	53	26.8
	Year 3	35	17.7
	Year 4	51	25.8
Admission type	Early	177	89.4
	Regular	21	10.6
School location	Capital area	7	3.5
	Chungcheong	74	37.4
	Jeolla	17	8.6
	Gyeongsang	1	.5
	Gangwon	99	50.0
Total		198	100.0

Table 2 shows the reliability and validity verification results for major satisfaction.

Factor and reliability analyses were performed to verify the validity of the measurement items of career maturity, to find common factors, and to use them as variables. The results is shown in Table 3.

Factor and reliability analyses were performed to verify the validity of the measurement items of academic continuity intention and to use them as variables after finding common factors. The result is shown in Table 4.

2.3.3 Correlation analysis

Table 5 shows the results of correlation analysis to find out the correlation between

Table 2. Verification of validity and reliability of major satisfaction

Factor	Question	Factor Load	Commonality	Eigenvalues	Reliability
Major satisfaction	I can be proud of my major.	.914	.836	6.029	.953
	My major is helpful for my career after graduation.	.893	.798		
	what I learn in my major fits me well.	.884	.781		
	I fell interest and value in the content of my major.	.880	.775		
	Get advice from my professor about my studies or career path.	.876	.768		
	My parents are proud of my major.	.840	.705		
	I can meet the professor at any time if I wish.	.833	.694		
	I think my major is popular.	.820	.672		

KMO=.927 Sphericity assay of Bartlett: $\chi^2=1,532.036$, $df=28$, $p=.000$, Total variance explanatory: 75.359

Table 3. Verification of validity and reliability of career maturity

Factor	Question	Factor load	Commonality	Eigen-values	Distributed explanatory	Reliability
Readiness	Seniors who have graduated want to give information about their career path or employment.	.851	.782	4.327	18.811	.914
	Imagine your future work life.	.844	.748			
	Want to talk with someone who has the job I want.	.817	.739			
	Always preparing for the future, even if nothing has been specifically decided.	.785	.745			
	Interested in exploring promising careers.	.739	.656			
	Make a plan in advance to achieve your desired career goals.	.719	.680			
Certainty	Have the confidence to do as well as the incumbent.	.823	.818	3.999	17.385	.935
	Confident that I will be recognized by my boss at the workplace I want to go.	.818	.798			
	Have confidence in whatever job I have.	.807	.770			
	Confident that I will succeed in my chosen profession.	.799	.837			
	Sure I will get the job I want.	.784	.790			
Independence	Choose a job I like, regardless of the opinions of others.	.899	.913	3.495	15.195	.761
	No matter what anyone says, I choose what I want to do.	.885	.885			
	Deciding on a career according to my beliefs in life.	.862	.859			
	Choose a job I want, even if my parents are against it.	.801	.714			
Purposeful	I want a job that others envy even if it doesn't fit my aptitude.	.896	.868	3.335	14.501	.913
	Want a job that others envy, even if it doesn't fit my aptitude.	.893	.880			
	When choosing a job, consider the economic aspect first.	.870	.853			
	Consider promotion before the nature of the job.	.742	.591			
Crystallinity	Have decided on my career path.	.849	.899	3.148	13.686	.930
	Have decided what to do in the future.	.840	.853			
	The career path has been decided, so I don't have to worry about making a choice.	.812	.838			
	Trying to decide which of the things I want to do.	.709	.785			

KMO=.912, Sphericity assay of Bartlett: $\chi^2=4,170.599$, $df=253$, $p=.000$, Total variance explanatory: 79.578

Table 4. Verification of validity and reliability of academic continuity intention

Factor	Question	Factor Load	Commonality	Eigenvalues	Reliability
Intention to continue studying	Will be graduating for sure.	.889	.791	2.680	.815
	Graduating from this school is important.	.847	.718		
	Confidence in overcoming obstacles to study.	.799	.639		
	Will also be enrolling for the next semester.	.729	.532		

KMO=.786, Sphericity assay of Bartlett: $\chi^2=317.332$, $df=6$, $p=.000$, Total variance explanatory: 66.991.

Table 5. Correlation analysis

Question	Major satisfaction	Career maturity					Intention to continue studying
		Determinacy	Purposeful	Certainty	Readiness	Independence	
Major satisfaction	1						
Career maturity	Determinacy	.530***	1				
	Purposeful	.327***	.394***	1			
	Certainty	.474***	.573***	.454***	1		
	Readiness	.523***	.543***	.230**	.463***	1	
	Independence	.444***	.464***	.430***	.488***	.369***	1
Intention to continue studying	.586***	.462***	.274***	.348***	.525***	.402***	1

** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

major satisfaction, career maturity, and intention to continue studying.

2.3.4 Validation of the research hypothesis

The results of analyzing the effect of major satisfaction on career maturity are shown in Table 6. It was found that major satisfaction had a significant effect on all sub-variables of career maturity.

Table 7 shows the results of analyzing the effect of major satisfaction on academic continuity intention. The study found that major satisfaction was significantly associated with academic continuity intentions.

Table 8 analyzes the effects of career maturity on academic continuity intentions. In the study, readiness, determinacy, and independence were statistically significantly related

to academic continuity intentions.

III. CONCLUSION

The hypothesis results of this study are summarized as follows. First, major satisfaction was associated with determinism, purposefulness, certainty, readiness, and independence, which are sub variables of career maturity.

The results indicate that major satisfaction is an important factor in enhancing career maturity for cabin crew department students with a good grasp of the major and a sense of satisfaction with the chosen major. Thus, the department should develop values and provide interesting education. Moreover, a curriculum that identifies and reflects the needs of students will be required. Second, academic continuity intentions were significantly influenced by major

Table 6. Effect of major satisfaction on career maturity

Dependent variable	Independent variable	Non-standardized coefficient		Standardized coefficient	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>R</i> ² (Adj. <i>R</i> ²)
		B	S.E	β				
Determinacy	(Constant)	.499	.375		1.329	.185	76.491***	.281 (.277)
	Major satisfaction	.749	.086	.530	8.746***	.000		
Purposeful	(Constant)	1.269	.423		2.997	.003	23.388***	.107 (.102)
	Major satisfaction	.467	.097	.327	4.836***	.000		
Certainty	(Constant)	1.635	.316		5.180	.000	56.877***	.225 (.221)
	Major satisfaction	.543	.072	.474	7.542***	.000		
Readiness	(Constant)	2.016	.259		7.794	.000	73.915***	.274 (.270)
	Major satisfaction	.507	.059	.523	8.597***	.000		
Independence	(Constant)	1.992	.276		7.211	.000	48.256***	.198 (.193)
	Major satisfaction	.438	.063	.444	6.947***	.000		

****p*<.001.

Table 7. Effect of major satisfaction on academic continuation intention

Dependent variable	Independent variable	Non-standardized coefficient		Standardized coefficient	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>R</i> ² (Adj. <i>R</i> ²)
		B	S.E	β				
Intention to continue studying	(Constant)	1.873	.246		7.627	.000	102.508***	.343 (.340)
	Major satisfaction	.567	.056	.586	10.125***	.000		

****p*<.001.

Table 8. Effect of career maturity on academic continuation intention

Dependent variable	Independent variable	Non-standardized coefficient		Standardized coefficient	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>R</i> ² (Adj. <i>R</i> ²)
		B	S.E	β				
Intention to continue studying	(Constant)	1.645	.293		5.607	.000	20.656***	.350 (.333)
	Determinacy	.123	.054	.179	2.259*	.025		
	Purposeful	.040	.046	.060	.872	.385		
	Certainty	-.032	.066	-.038	-.487	.626		
	Readiness	.366	.071	.366	5.120***	.000		
	Independence	.174	.070	.177	2.484*	.014		

p*<0.05, **p*<.001.

satisfaction. For cabin crew department students to be able to continue their studies at their university, their major needs to be satisfactory.

In other words, improving major satisfaction can help with academic continuity. The creation of non-curricular programs, major-specific industry-academic programs, and providing field experiences and practical training will increase major satisfaction. Third, career maturity affects the intention to continue studying, and determinism, readiness, and independence were all found to be significantly influenced by each sub-variable. Therefore, to improve career maturity, departments should provide information about career paths to airline employees or graduates so they can plan and prepare for the future, and instill confidence to choose careers based on their beliefs.

Through these results, it was possible to establish that major satisfaction and career maturity are important factors influencing the intention to continue studying. Students' academic continuity intentions were presented, as well as the basic data needed for the follow-up study.

A limitation of this study is that the subjects of the survey were only students from the cabin crew department of a 4-year university. Therefore, it will be a good guide if the scope of future research is expanded to 2-year colleges. In addition, it will be more meaningful if research is conducted on any differences according to gender, grade level, or school type.

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