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The Practice of Social Work in Health Care in the Czech Republic: How to Identify Understanding the Practice of Social Work in Health Care through Research?

Iva Kuzníková

Dr. Iva Kuzníková¹ is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava, focused on research in the field of social work in health care, long-term care and multidisciplinary cooperation.

Abstract

The article discusses understanding the practice of social work in a health care institution providing both acute and long-term health care services in the Czech Republic.

The aim of the article is to provide the results of the findings of a qualitative case study on understanding the practice of social work among the involved persons, i. e. social workers in health care. The text thus contributes to professional discussion concerning the needs for research into social work in health care in the Czech environment.

The text presents the method of case study as a way of identifying the reality of practice in social work within a multidisciplinary environment with a diverse clientele.

The text reveals the quality of social work practice in health care in the Czech Republic, and it also explores weaknesses, for which general recommendations are made to overcome them. The final part of the article is devoted to highlighting the essential findings and suggestions for recommendations which could influence the development in the practice of social work in health care and its research.

Keywords

social work, health care, case study, interpretation, social work practice

Introduction

The core of the text is **presentation of a complex view of social work in health care in the Czech Republic** and interpretation of **understanding the practice of social work in health care by social workers**, i.e. how social workers in health care understand the methods of social work, their own role, and the client's role while conducting their job. Key topics are regarded which are scarcely the subject of research in the Czech environment. Previous research only marginally relates to the chosen topic of social work practice in health care.

An inspiration for choosing the topic of social work in health care has been the specificity of

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A Double-Edged Tool: the Czech Care Allowance from the Perspective of Family Caregivers' Situation

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Abstract

This text endeavours to capture the socio-political climate and those conditions under which family caregivers in the Czech Republic must work and which are influenced by the Czech Care Allowance (CA) system. The family caregivers were almost invisible until the introduction of the CA into the Czech social care system. Four interconnected issues concerning the situation of the family caregivers in the Czech Republic are discussed that are related to the CA. These issues involve 1/ a procedure of CA entitlement assessment; 2/ social rights and low social security available for the family caregivers; 3/ relationship of formal social services to the family caregivers, 4/ a possible impact of the Care benefit agenda professionals' stereotypes or preconceptions on the assessment of eligibility for Care benefit. The text is concluded by a short discussion of the situation of the Czech family caregivers from the vantage point of foreign experience and policy towards family care/caregivers, including the EU strategy.

Keywords

family care, family caregivers, care allowance, eligibility assessment, social protection, social risks, citizenship

Introduction

Long-term informal care in general, and family care in particular, as well as the situation of the family caregivers are key topics of social policy in most developed countries, and certainly not brand-new. Due to the deep demographical transformation, mainly the ageing of population and the changes in family structure in the developed countries, these societies must face a problem of a disproportion in numbers of people in need of care and available caregivers. Not only in the European context is this situation perceived as a new risk in European social policy by many experts (Jacobs, 2003:398). *"The current situation and demographic forecasts indicate that potential*

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Conflicting and Competing Roles and Expectations: the Conundrum of Failing Social Work Students on Placements

Martyn Higgins

Dr. Martyn Higgins¹ is an Associate Professor at the London South Bank University. His main research interests are social work education, newly qualified social workers experiences, concepts of professional identity, and late modern theory and its application to social work.

Abstract

The relatively limited literature on failing students on social work placements tends to focus on the emotional reactions of the participants. The aim of this paper is different because it explores whether it is the student who is failing or whether stakeholders are failing the student by being unclear about expectations of a student on placement. This study examines whether the problem of failing students needs to be recontextualised within a wider framework of roles and expectations of social work. The paper is derived from a wider study into the expectations of participants of the social work degree. The results indicate that interviewees hold contradictory and inconsistent expectations of students, which may contribute to the difficulties encountered by tutors, practice educators, and students when a student is failing. The findings are linked to the wider context of the present reform of social work education and concerns about students' suitability for professional practice.

Keywords

failing, students, expectations, practice learning

Introduction

Failure of social work students is a conundrum. It is a puzzling question or problem for three reasons. Firstly, there is relatively little written on the subject. Secondly what is available tends to lack a clear theoretical approach. Finally, partly perhaps because of the preceding reasons, it is not clear whether there is a problem. This paper examines whether the problem of failing students needs to be recontextualised within a wider framework of roles and expectations of social work. The importance of improving the quality of both student placements and student assessment on placement has been highlighted by the Social Work Reform Board. The requirement for all students to be assessed by a qualified social work practice educator, the introduction of the practice educator standards and the establishment of the 30-day skills programme are examples of this emphasis.

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Consequences of the Modernization of Society and Possible Coping Mechanisms, with an Example from Italy

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Abstract

The contribution is focused on the topic of social and solidarity economy and Italian social cooperatives, and is one of the outcomes of the Student Grant Competition project called *The Use of Social Work in Italian Social Cooperatives Providing Social Services* which has been conducted from January to December 2016 with the goal to clarify a working definition of social work implemented in organizations chosen for the research. This article first introduces the topic of modernization of society with the consequences for social work as well, followed by basic information about social and solidarity economy and social cooperatives in Italy. The last part of the text focuses on the project and some of its outcomes in the context of the modernization of society.

Keywords

social economy, solidarity economy, modernization, social cooperatives, individualization, risks, managerialism, economization, welfare state crisis, privatization

Introduction

During the last decades, social work as a profession and as an academic discipline has been facing many new challenges as a result of changes in society connected to its modernisation. New phenomena, such as managerialism and economization, individualism, or crisis of the welfare state, have a direct influence on the practice of social work. The problems that have emerged in society and that are in the central focus of social work, require new approaches and ideas that would provide adequate and efficient solutions. Social and solidarity economy are concepts that have been gaining an increasing attention recently, as they were recognized (both on the EU level, as well as on the national level in many countries of Europe) as an area that can contribute to find solutions for some of the most urgent problems of the contemporary society. Social work must deal with many new situations as well. In the context of the development of society, the conditions for its practice have significantly changed, and it needs to constantly prove its legitimacy in the society where economic principles play a decisive role. Possible connections between social work

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Current Research Trends in Social Work from the Demands Submitted to CNPq

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Abstract

This article aims to analyze current research trends in Social Work from the demands submitted in the context of the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). Therefore, it introduces a discussion concerning the unquestionable relationship among research, production of knowledge, and stricto sensu graduate programs in Social Work. This discussion is based on data collected from secondary sources derived from the previously mentioned funding agency. Data have been evaluated by representatives of the Social Work area who participate in the Advisory Committee of Psychology and Social Work at CNPq. The trends observed show the fragility within the area which arises from issues such as the current centrality of technological innovation; the investigative predominance on the Social Policies and issues regarding the area of Fundamentals of Social Work; the link of the research to several social demands historically determined by a capitalist society. We also emphasize the emergence of two new trends stimulated by CNPq, which denote relevance to Social Work: education and popularization of Science & Technology, as well as intersectionality.

Keywords

research, production of knowledge, social work

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A Study on the Rural Dalit Women Entrepreneurs in Almora District of Uttarakhand State

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Abstract

It is estimated that 833 million people continue to live in rural India (The Census, 2011 in Hazare, 2011). ‘The development and transformation of rural economy requires rapid expansion of employment and income opportunities’ (Planning Commission, 2009). Women entrepreneurs have proven that there is “a source of immense untapped power in the womanhood of India” (Hall, 1992). Economically empowered women contributed to the wealth and well-being not only of their families, but also of their nations (Blumberg, 1995). The Self Help group-bank linkage process in India paved the way for the emergence of rural women Entrepreneurs⁴ in the recent decades. The strategic enhancement of women’s entrepreneurship could lead to economic growth and inclusive prosperity in the rural areas.

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⁴ Women in rural areas belonging to village affinity groups such as SHG’s (self-help groups), and who avail credit facilities and initiate micro enterprises so to increase savings and resources.