

ABSTRACT

Tone Brejc

Professional burn-out of workers in employment services

Psychologist Tone Brejc works at Vocational Rehabilitation Unit of Rehabilitation Institute in Ljubljana.

The problem of "professional burn-out", that is, the particular emotional and attitudinal state jeopardising the efficiency of "helping services", especially when it is overwhelming, has not yet been expertly scrutinised. The same is true for employment services and for their professionals who have become liable to heavy frustrations since the beginning of the economic crisis. The author describes the basic causes and contributing factors of the "professional burn-out", outlines its most characteristic forms, and presents a methodical approach to its prevention and cure. The second part of the article presents the results of a pilot study that has tested, using a questionnaire on the sample of 47 employment service workers, four factors of "professional burn-out". It has been found that with this group, "professional burn-out" is limited to the emotional exhaustion, the consequence of being overloaded with problems. Therefore, measures could be applied to improve the experiential level of professional conduct.

Franč Udovič

Managing contacts between children and their divorced parents

Social worker Franč Udovič is a marital and family counsellor at Social Work Centre in Maribor, former supervisor at the Institute for family education in Graz, Austria, and participated in the conceptualisation of education for mediators in Austria.

Children have a right to be taken care of by both parents. Consequently, the question at divorce should not be: who of the two is more suitable for further care and education of the child, but: how could both be helped to form a new, post-separation relationship with regard to their children. That relationship should enable both parents to actively perform their parental roles and thus participate at their best to the formation and development of their child's personality. Parents at divorce should be offered "help for self-help" to (again) be able to solve their conflicts in consent. Rather than by traditional approaches (administrative or legal arrangements), such help may be offered by the process of mediation. This approach promotes the parents' ability to communicate and co-operate, strengthens their self-confidence and self-esteem. It also qualifies them for responsible and autonomous decision-making in the emergence of a new, post-separation, relationship.

Franč Hribernik

Social implications of alcoholism in road traffic

Sociologist Franč Hribernik, Ph. D., is an assistant lecturer of rural sociology at University of Ljubljana Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Agronomy.

The author quotes statistic data which show that alcoholic intoxication is the immediate cause of fatal traffic accidents in 6%, and of accidents involving heavy and light injuries in 6.5% (among the drivers of tractors in an even higher percentage). It is also the most frequent cause of the suspension of driving licences (in more than 95%). If, however, alcohol is considered in combination with other factors of traffic accidents (speed, style of driving, etc.), then it is involved in a quarter of all serious traffic accidents. Since these trends remain unchangeable by legal means, the author suggests direct involvement of social workers (and other professionals) in traffic education.

Janez Drobnič

The privatisation of the vocational rehabilitation of the disabled

Sociologist Janez Drobnič, M. A., is a counsellor to Director of National Employment Office and member of Governmental Commission for social care of disabled persons.

As the starting point to deal with the problem of privatisation in the field of vocational rehabilitation of the disabled, the author takes a structural privatisation model, on the basis of which it is possible to analyse the attained degree of the privatisation activities, or, in accordance with the set goals, to predict the desired one. The author uses the structural model in analysing the existing situation of the privatisation of the vocational rehabilitation, and suggests ways to better solutions in practice.

ABSTRACTS

Darja Zaviršek

Psychiatric ward between illness and its cultural manifestation - A case study (V)

Sociologist Darja Zaviršek, Ph. D., is an assistant lecturer for anthropology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

The structural characteristics of traditional psychiatry are related to the culture in which the institution exists. Typically, the people who are in the worst state and who, because of their social position, have the least choice, get the worst treatment in it. In Slovenia, the cultural features of the psychiatric institution are: non-specialisation of procedure, empty spaces in the "continuous coverage", familialism, openness on the one hand and closeness on the other. The second part of the paper treats cultural advocacy, in the sense of understanding different languages of the involved, taking sides, mediation, understanding different cultures, forwarding messages between the world of staff and the world of patients, as well as of encouragement and empowerment for self-advocacy.

Milko Poštrak

Where have all subcultures gone? (V)

Sociologist Milko Poštrak, M. A., is a junior researcher at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

In the final contribution on the situation in the field of subcultural studies the author briefly summarises some fundamental tendencies of those studies and then raises the question whether there is still any sense in speaking about subcultural studies. He finds it more suitable to set the research on the variety of cultures, or cultural practices (lifestyles). In this context even the research or investigation of the so-called subcultures and their significance would become more wholesome. In the author's view, anthropological knowledge is a valuable contribution to the cultural studies, as it is more and more frequently resumed, referred to, and based upon in further research, by humanistic sciences. Anthropology also contributes to a better understanding of cultures or lifestyles that are different from our own, which is of key importance for the survival of us all.

Bogdan Lešnik

Clinic La Borde - Some concepts, activities, principles: an attempt at placing

Psychologist Bogdan Lešnik, M. A., is a psychotherapist, an associate of University of Ljubljana School of Social Work, and Editor of this journal.

The author resumes some key references used by the (psychoanalytical) clinic for psychoses La Borde (near Blois, France) and compares them with some key concepts of the British reform in the field of (community) mental health. Albeit neither different starting points nor to some extent different goals entail any significant differences in their relationships with patients, the differences observed by the author between the two "models" are nevertheless visible. They are also notable when the patients' organisations and their influence in both "models" are compared - wide, autonomous patients' movement in Britain and hospital-bound Therapeutic Club in France (at La Borde and one or two other hospitals) -, but in this respect the "models" are complementary: what they offer is an opportunity for confrontation (the former), which is a good starting point for analysis (the latter).

Srečo Dragoš

A draft of the Code of professional ethics of Slovenian social workers

Sociologist Srečo Dragoš, M. A., is an assistant lecturer of sociology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

Since professionals of social work in Slovenia are still without a code of professional ethics, the author presents his draft and offers it for discussion. Initially, he scrutinises his own starting-points in seven items, drawing attention to the anti-discriminatory language, to the suitable terminology that is generally admitted in the profession, to the optimal extent of the code, to the appropriate regard for the professional autonomy, to the problem of protecting personal data, to the practical range of the norms contained in the code, and to the structure of its contents.