

A B S T R A C T S

Srečo Dragoš
SOCIAL CAPITAL

A PRECIOUS, UNCLEAR AND INVISIBLE GOOD

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Social capital is a precious good, since many changes in many fields and levels of social structure are related to its amount. With the growing research on social capital, however, the difficulties discussed in this paper grow as well. The concept presents problems in these areas in particular: understanding social capital (what it consists of and what it means at all), definitions of key concepts, distinctions of causes and effects (whether to give precedence to causal or hermeneutic approaches), location of its crucial moments (where and how it emerges), and evaluation of its use (when and for whom it is dis/functional). An additional difficulty is presented by its transparency, which may remain a serious methodological challenge even if the other problems are solved. Since social capital emerges and reproduces in social networks, which are complex interactional media, it is difficult to assess its quantity. Nevertheless, the author maintains that the presented problems cannot be the reason to reject the concept of social capital; they should rather lead to deal with its deficiencies.

Keywords: social networks, solidarity, trust, voluntary work.

Gabi Čačinovič Vogrinčič
CONCEPT OF WORKING RELATION IN SOCIAL WORK

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The paper presents the concept of working relation in social work and within it explores the particularities of the process of help or of seeking solutions for complex social problems of individuals. It is only by establishing a working relation, transparent to both clients and professionals because it is agreed upon and explained, that social work practice is made possible, along with efficient dialogue and co-operation. Working relation is established by the social worker, when he or she makes an agreement, forms an instrumental definition of the problem and its solution (P. Lussi), and acts in accordance with the concept of personal guidance (de Vries). The concept is additionally elucidated by D. Saleebey's perspective on power, L. Hofmann's ethic of participation, T. Anderson's dealing with the present, and Lussi and Rosenfeld's 'knowledge for action'.

Keywords: help, agreement, instrumental definition of the problem, personal guidance.

Miran Jurko, Mara Ovsenik
FREE TIME AND THE MODERATION OF A WORK GROUP
THE BUILDING OF COMMUNITY IN A STUDENT HOSTEL

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The paper is a report on an action research in a student hostel, where a moderated community - a work-group - on the basis of teamwork was formed. The moderator of the group was a social worker. Moderation encompassed guidance of group members and their own learning for creative work and representing the group. Moderation aimed mainly at offering new free time activities for a better atmosphere in the hostel. As part of the research a new room for socializing was created and furnished, a (non-alcoholic) hot drink machine was brought in as well as a table football, pictures were hung on the walls, etc. Before and after moderation an evaluation of inventory and the effectiveness of hostel community was carried out. The introduction of teamwork showed good results. Team-

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work skills help social workers lead smaller self-help groups and participate in professional teams.

Keywords: team work, quality of life, student hostel.

Mojca Urek

SURVIVAL GUIDE THROUGH SOCIAL CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR LESBIANS AND GAYS
Mojca Urek, M.A., is assistant lecturer at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

The essay treats the relation between homosexuality and mental health. Even though homosexuality is no longer considered a mental illness, various services that offer professional help still nourish, in their practice, a conviction that it is a disorder that needs to be mended, cured or removed. This is evident from the presented experiences of lesbians and gays with social, counselling, and mental health services. On their basis she composed a short 'survival guide' through professional services for lesbians and gays who seek help, and a list of directions for professionals to get rid of their possibly homophobic attitude.

Keywords: homosexuality, counselling, homophobia, intolerance.