

Seminar Facilitation

Competency 7 and
Togetherness

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Agenda

Part I: Competency 7

- Key points: social workers understand...
- Assessment: definition and main ideas
- Social workers... (tasks)
- Integrative questions

Part II: Togetherness

- Main ideas
- Application to social work practice
- Discussion questions
- Activity!



Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities



Social workers understand...

- Assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with and on behalf of all client systems.
 - It is an ongoing process since we are continuously learning new information about the client system, which enables us to assess and update the information in order to formulate and implement new interventions or, when necessary, set new goals/objectives.



Social workers understand...

- Theories of human behavior and the social environment in order to critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies.
 - We can identify one or more theories that apply to and allow us to better understand the client system based on the data/information gathered.
- Methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness.
 - Assessment tools and methods facilitate the process of gathering and organizing as much information from the client system as possible.



Social workers understand...

- Implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of interprofessional collaboration in this process.
 - Inter-professional collaboration occurs when more than two professions work together to achieve a shared objective.
 - Collaboration with other professions and agencies is an important aspect of collaboration in which we must be competent.
- How personal experiences and affective reactions may affect assessment and decision-making.



Assessment: definition and main ideas.



“The meaning-making process that helps social workers prioritize relevant factors in a client case and determine appropriate action” (Berg-Weger et. al., 2020, p. 96).



Exploration phase through which we learn about the client system and its context, including its strengths, challenges, inter and intrapersonal relationships, and environmental factors.



Facilitates the process and quality of data collection.



It is significant for social work practice because decisions regarding goals and interventions to be implemented with the client system are based largely on assessment.



Helps in the formulation of solutions and the selection of the most appropriate services for the client system.

Social Workers...

- Collect and organize data using a multidimensional (biopsychosocial-spiritual) approach and assessment tools; they apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.
- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.



Social Workers...



- Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.
- Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.
- Assess the client system readiness for change as well as their coping strategies to reinforce and enhance adaptation to life situations and circumstances.

Integrative Questions

Identify a case situation you have worked with and describe the model(s) of assessment that you applied in your work with the case.

In what ways did you apply your knowledge of human behavior in the social environment and person-in-environment to assist in the assessment process?

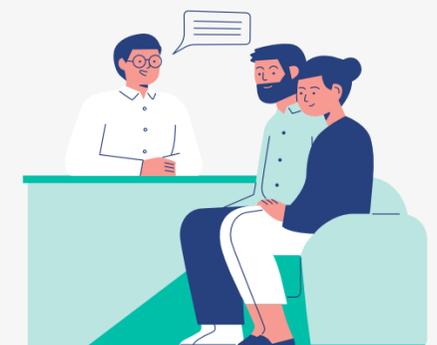


Compassion Chapter 6: Togetherness

Main ideas

- “The togetherness of the Christian community, however, is not the result of shared anger or anxiety; it grows from a deep sense of being called together to make God's compassion visible in the concreteness of everyday living” (p. 74).
- True, authentic, voluntary displacement creates a new way of togetherness:
 - *Compassionate togetherness.*
 - A new deep awareness of solidarity.
 - We recognize our sameness in common vulnerability.

...



Main ideas

- Living out in solidarity enables us to see each other's unique gifts.
 - Each person's unique talents may be used as elements of community to unite, not to compete or divide.
- Self-emptying occurs when we pay attention to others and make their interests or challenges our own; we must be empty to receive others into our intimate inner space (p. 79-80).
 - Christ's healing ministry.
- Life in community is a response to a vocation; a response to God's call to gather and work in community.
 - Our vocation guides our lives.
 - God calls everyone who is listening.



Application to Social Work Practice



- As social workers who are Christians, our individual, unique gifts and professional knowledge can be called forth and put into service for all.

- Serving in solidarity illustrates how compassionate togetherness does not suppress unique talents but calls them forth to fruitfulness (p. 79).

- Real, humble service is helping others discover that they possess great strengths and talents and receiving them in gratitude as valuable contributions to the work we are doing.



Application to Social Work Practice



- We move away from being the center of attention and invite our client systems into that space; making them valuable and important for us has a tremendous impact on their life and our practice.

- “A career that expresses obedience to our vocation is the concrete way of making our unique talents available to the community” (p. 82).



Integrative Questions

Discuss the authors' statement "This new, non-competitive togetherness opens our eyes to each other. Here we touch the beauty of the Christian community."

How might we "empty" ourselves for another?



Activity!

Let's play HANGMAN!

