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SWK 658 Clinical Groups

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Journal #5

This week's journal is based on this week's reading from Chapter 7 of the 'Social work with Groups' book. This chapter focuses on working with diverse groups. This chapter starts by defining key terms and expressing the pitfall of stereotyping. The chapter would touch on the diverse populations and groups a facilitator may work with. The chapter explains the need for cultural competence and growing sensitivity to a person's ethnicity. Lastly, the chapter introduces frameworks, interventions, and stages of development for specific groups.

To sum up all of these different theories and interventions, I would refer to the section on cultural competence on page 234. Because diversity is increasing, the social worker must be culturally competent as possible, especially for those in the northeastern part of the country, which is one of the most diverse parts of the planet. Being culturally competent does not come naturally, nor should we expect that it should. This is something that takes continual effort because culture is not stagnant. Culture is fluid. This chapter explains that the way to become competent is through education and self-reflection, which is compatible with social work values, ethics, and biblical Christianity.

I would apply cultural competence as a part of my practice by trying to understand how little I understand about a person's culture. I believe this goes beyond ethnicity and where a

person grew up. With each culture, some subcultures are just as crucial to the individual, if not more. One of these sub-cultures is the culture in a borough, neighborhood, and home. This should help me beg better questions to get to know the individual or group before me.