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CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL WORK IN INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AND A NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION MORE COURSES RELATED TO THIS AREA IN SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM

SUMMARY

Social Work with children and youth with behavioural problems is a complex area which includes use of different methods and work based on holistic approach. The goal of the research was to explore the experiences of professionals working in institutions for children and youth with behavioural problems about direct forms of work that they use. Participants were professionals (N=20) in two institutions in Croatia. Qualitative research was conducted using an interview technic and the data were analysed with a method of framework analysis. The results show that professionals distinguish forms of direct work with users: individual work, group work and other forms of work in problem and conflict situations. Professionals understand their role different and proceed uneven. Therefore it is needed to improve social work in institutions for children and youth with behavioural problems as well as implement in social work curricula more subjects connected to this important area.

Key words: direct work, individual work, group work, social work, improvement of social work curricula