

Educating for 'Practice Development' and 'Social Innovation'

Insights in a Dutch Master Programme of Social Work with a focus on Practice Development

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Context

No master education at an academic level until 2008

2002: bachelor programmes at UAS

240 EC, 4 year (full-time, part time, dual)

Prepare for direct practice

At the moment: general + one main direction: youth care, residential care or community development

2008: Master Programme Social Work at UAS

Transformation of the Dutch welfare state

Initiated by stakeholders in social work (round table conference '05)

Developed together with UAS Amsterdam

60 EC, 2 year

Part time: students are social work professionals

Practice development: why?

- MSW a means for quality improvement and professionalisation
- PhD project: what does the MSW contribute to professionalisation?
- First study: (implicit) notions on professionalisation
- Document analysis (N=50) and concept mapping (N=37)
- Conceptual framework of professionalisation: four dimensions
- Stakeholders: focus on one dimension: development of practice

(Van Pelt, Hutschemaekers, Slegers, Van Hattum, 2013)

Practice development: what?

- Originates from nursing in Great-Brittain, to develop effective patient-centred care
- Study 2: Is PD in nursing relevant and usefull for Social Work?
- Narrative literature review (N=44) followed by a Delphi study (N=17)
- PD in nursing is relevant professionalisation strategy for social work **IF** translated to normative, relational and societal nature of social work.
- PD is a meta-activity
- PD should lead to: improved practice, learning of professionals, theory of practice

Practice development: what? (continued)

PD in social work is defined as:

a common practice in which social workers jointly and systematically research and improve their practice in order to adequately tackle a certain social problem (aspect). This practice is constituted of three activities: Evidence Based Practice (broad interpretation), cooperation and linking. The latter are conditional for EBP.

- A social worker with a pd-role directs this common practice.

PD in the curriculum: how

- Social Practice Development is overall goal of the programme
- Students are educated in conducting PD and performing pd-role
- Learning by doing
- A 2- year PD-project in social work practice
- In doing so they follow 10 steps from identifying a social issue – knowledge dissemination
- Just in time education to support these steps

PD in the curriculum: content

3 *core tasks*:

- directing PD
- knowledge use and knowledge development,
- dealing with multiple perspectives

6 *competencies*: to identify, research, develop, implement, evaluate and legitimize

3 *main programmes* and its core concepts:

- Social Work Theory (SWT, 20 EC): constructive social work
- Research & Improvement (R&I, 30 EC): EBP
- Professional Leadership (PL, 10 EC): collaborative leadership

PD in the curriculum: content

MASTERPROGRAMMA'S

Year	Module	Programme	EC
1	Identifying a social issue	R&I	4
1	Theories of practice in social work	SWT	6
1	Professional leadership of a MSW	PL	4
1	Developing a research design	R&I	8
1	Theories of social interventions	SWT	7
1/2	Conducting a research project and writing a research report	R&I	8
2	Socio-political theories	SWT	7
2	Developing and implementing an intervention for practice improvement	R&I	8
2	Supporting professionalisation of social workers	PL	5
2	Monitoring and evaluation of a development in practice	R&I	2
2	Professional leadership of a Master in Social Work	PL	1

Challenges

- Turbulence in practice
- Flexibility of the curriculum
- Master level with regard to theory use and research skills