

A program for developing communicative and relational competence among social work students.

Abstract

This article presents the results of a study of the experiences of students and teachers involved in a skills training programme instituted by the social work faculty at Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences. A key element in the training course, central to social work practice, was competence in communication and relational work. Focus group interviews with students and teachers dealt with factors contributing to skills proficiency. The analysis of the data showed that learning processes for students were much influenced by the relational and communicative competence demonstrated by their respective teachers as social work practitioners. The study also found that students benefited from the integration of theory and practice provided by the milieu of the social work faculty.