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Social Work Unit

Transgressive dimension of social projects as an answer to contemporary challenges.

Reflections seen from the perspective of social workers' education at the Social Work Unit at the University of Silesia in Katowice.

A key link for social work education and the working ways in social practice is a social projection method. It creates special space for creative and innovative activity, and it enables to design complex solutions on the basis of numerous perspectives.

Education of future social workers based on elaboration and implementation of a social project is more than compilation of students' cognitive and research efforts. This is the first serious and independent undertaking, conducted according to the projection method in social work, where students are responsible for actions which are to result in expected changes in work with an individual, a family or a community. Practical project implementation becomes an experience which shows the students how to go beyond themselves in actions done for other people. It is related to overcoming barriers in different dimensions. These are inner uncertainty related to their own competences, e.g. organizing a local community. Transgression towards others requires development of skills of gaining new partners for cooperation in order to achieve the objective pursued. It can mean overcoming barriers which were subconscious before because of limited contacts with a specific group, e.g. homeless people. There are also ways of overcoming limits which are set by the routine of work in social work institutions. One of the examples is the project where the worker's passion for acting can result in using theatre workshops for improvement of social skills of teenagers.

The article goal is to consider selected elements of social work education at the Social Work Unit at the University of Silesia in Katowice, especially the potential of elaboration and, first of all, implementation and evaluation of social projects. The analysis of selected projects enables to show a special value of the method related to combination theory, methodology and practice of social work at the level of vocational education.

