

Methodological principles in girl's work: using a master class of social work professionals and interviews to identify their practice based method

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Background and purpose

Amsterdam girl's workers ask for an evidence-supported method to empower girls and young women. Reason is three fold: to improve the quality and effectiveness of their work, to be accountable and final as recognition of the need of gender specific social work with girls. Problem is that gender specific social work with girls is practiced by a broad variety of specializations within the field of welfare work (social work; youth work; community work; streetcornerwork; youth care). Also the intervention is used both individual as well as in groups, take place in different contexts and are focused on target groups with different problems and divers personal backgrounds (age; class; sexuality; ethnicity;). Question is: how to develop a method that is supported by evidence and is useful for a diversity of specializations in the field of welfare work, target groups and contexts?

Method

A master class of girl's workers, lecturer's social work and researchers perform the research. Further, ten in depth-interviews have been held in which the girl's workers individually have been questioned to explicate their practice (tacit) knowledge. To validate the outcomes for urban social work, ten supplementary interviews are held with girl's workers outside Amsterdam.

Results

Preliminary results are the identification of nine methodological principles of gender specific social work with girls. For each principle, it is established what the function is, how it contributes to the goals of the intervention and what the share of the professional is in the performance of the principle.

Conclusion and implications

Strength of this approach is that it articulates the tacit knowledge of girls' workers. This gives social professionals the possibility to legitimize their work as well as to reflect on what they are doing to further enhance their work. Still, further research is necessary to support the method with evidence.

Keywords:

Social work methods; master class; tacit knowledge; core principles of interventions