Module Introduction

Improving the protection and wellbeing of children in Europe: enhancing the curriculum
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Module Purpose:

To provide scenario based learning through which the student develops knowledge and understanding, and applies it effectively when working with children and their families within a child protection setting.
Learning Outcomes:

• Consider and apply relevant theory and research on child protection and wellbeing
• Consider and apply national policy and legislation as it relates to child protection and wellbeing
• Consider the impact of values, ethics and morals upon practice in child protection
• Demonstrate the appropriate skills in identifying and assessing potential risks to the child
• Develop and apply an appropriate intervention and management strategy
• Demonstrate knowledge of relevant practice skills
Methods intended to be used:

• PPT presentation
• Case studies
• Brainstorming and Discussions (in small and big group format)
• Problem solving (in small and big group format)
• Exercises in groups
• Interactive methods (such as role play etc.)
Throughout the case study there will be prompts to help students to think about three interlinked areas:

What theories might help students understand and respond, what they need to know about the legislation and policy which underpins any intervention, what research might be relevant?

What values and ethics underpin practice with children and their parents/carer? Identify ethical issues and dilemmas in professional child practice. Gain awareness of relevant laws and agency policy that affect ethical decision-making in child welfare.

What skills do students need to possess and demonstrate so that they can help children and their parents/carers? This will include an ability to communicate effectively using a range of methods including play with children and young people.
Albania case study: The story of Ana

- This case is taken from the National Association Education for Life (SHKEJ)
- Ana is 17 years old, a single mother (7 months daughter).
- Ana is from Egyptian community and lives in a big family, consisting of 12 members in the informal area of Shkoza.
- Ana is the youngest girl's family after the three brothers and one sister.
- Ana attended only three elementary classes and has no knowledge of good writing and reading.
Background of the case

Ana comes from a family with highlighted socio-economic problems, for several years her father consumes alcohol and he's dependent on it, consequently of his control's loss he exercises constantly physical and psychological violence on the other members, while the mother is a courageous woman, always committed to take care of her family.
The current socio-economic condition

• The family lives in a hut which is divided in two parts, in one part Ana`s brother lives with his family and the other part Ana lives with her daughter, her parents and brothers and sister.

• The hut is built of recycled materials, mainly plastic, cartons etc, there is a lack of basic furniture, electricity does not come on a regular basis (it is associated not legally), there is no running water, there is only one toilet adapted canalizations.

• The area is highly polluted by waste dumping, physical living conditions are not safe, in the area had often drop fire by electric sparks and even several years ago her family's hut was on fire.

• The source of family's income is the collection of iron from the parents, mainly from her mother and children begging.
Intervention

- For the first time this case is identified 9 years ago, by SHKEJ organization when Ana was begging on the street.
- The case was assessed by the multidisciplinary team of the association SHKEJ where for 5 years she takes social and educational services as: psycho-social support, health and food support, school recovery etc.
- During this period the girl was engaged in daily activities of the organization and she was not taken by her family to work and begging and also the other children of her family attended the daily activities. The socio-economic situation was stabilized.
- For several years she profited by the support services of food, health, and education, scholastic, her mental and physical health improved, she attended some classes and she developed in terms of relations with her peers.
- At the same time, her mother attended programs to strengthen the family and she was trained in some aspects of ensuring better sanitary conditions for children, she was involved in programs against domestic violence etc.
- But her father has never admitted to be part of our program that makes it more difficult the effective management of the case and compromising with him to exit this situation.
• The years passed by and Ana had grown enough, she was in the stage of puberty while her eldest siblings were married, it was now her turn.

• Although her mother insisted that she needed to mature more, she didn't resist herself by finding her a husband, when she had not yet turned 15 years old. The girl married a man 9 years her senior when she was still a child. This time will initiate the real hell of a girl, still minor that will live in an inappropriate family for her.

• Even if her husband's family was from the suburbs of Elbasan, they lived in Kosovo, obviously in extreme poor conditions.

• His family was big, they lived all together with the parents, brothers, sister in law and Ana was the youngest in the family.

• In a short time, the situation was reversed in the first month, the husband physically abused her, beating her in a barbaric way, the parents and the other family members offended and prejudged her in a scary way. Sometimes her husband had attempted to exploit her for prostitution on the street.

• She had refused but as a response was beaten in a barbaric way ending with several broken teeth. In this situation Ana decide to return to her mother in Albania and in that time she realized that was pregnant.

• She and her mother contact again SHKEJ organization.
The current situation

• As mentioned above, the family story and especially Ana's case is quite complicated because years ago the case was evaluated and a work plan was built by the multidisciplinary team of the SHKEJ organization to improve the socio-economic situation of the case.

• In the current conditions, referring to their return from Kosovo and Ana’s pregnancy the case became a reassessment of the situation with a careful rate of her psychosocial condition.
Thank You!