SESSION 3: ETHICS & VALUES

Improving the protection and wellbeing of children in Europe: enhancing the curriculum
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SESSION OBJECTIVES:

- To consider the impact of values, ethics and morals upon practice in child protection
- To apply values, ethics and morals within their practice in child protection
- To challenge student’s personal theories and assumptions that conflict with profession theories

“Ethical principles such as moral attitudes are essential for quality and professionalism of socially responsible action. They are fundamental in the true sense of the word: they define the foundation of a profession whose ultimate goal is to improve autonomy and the protection of human dignity in this respect the existence of its addressees.” (Lop-Hüdepohl 2007, p. 157 cont., quote translated from German to English)
This will include the personal, professional and organisational factors which influence how social workers engage:

**Self-perception and reflection**
- (thinking and feeling, perception of people, self-understanding of individual and professional values, social role)

**Relationship with requirements and/or charges**
- (autonomy and self-responsibility, initiative, emotional control, accepting insecurities approach towards social pressure)

**Self-representation**
- (consistency of values and behaviours, congruence of verbal and nonverbal communication, sovereign attitude)

**Learning**
- (motivation to learn and curiosity, flexibility, creativity, learning styles, learning strategies)

**Professional (including registration) and organizational factors**
- (what is the culture and practice, what is valued within the organization)
WHAT IS ETHICS?

Meta-ethics:
Definition: “Metaethics is the attempt to understand the metaphysical, epistemological, semantic, and psychological, presuppositions and commitments of moral thought, talk, and practice” (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2012).

Applied ethics:
Definition: “Applied ethics is a branch of ethics devoted to the treatment of moral problems, practices, and policies in personal life, professions, technology, and government” (Oxford Bibliographies, 2015).

Normative ethics:
Definition: It is a “... part of moral philosophy, or ethics, concerned with criteria of what is morally right and wrong… The central question of normative ethics is determining how basic moral standards are arrived at and justified” (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2017).
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS

**Human value:**

- Human value implies the essential tenet of human dignity. This means all persons should be met with equal respect and care, from this it follows that discrimination is disallowed.

**Morality:**

- Morals are the values and principles according to which an inner attitude or behaviour is judged to be morally good or bad.

- In a broader sense morality should us lead to human well-being and includes and refers to respect for every person’s dignity and integrity, freedom, the right to self-determination, humanity, human rights and solidarity.
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<tr>
<th>STAGE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRECONVENTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heteronomous morality</td>
<td>Accepting what the world says it right</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instrumental purpose</td>
<td>Defining the good as whatever is agreeable to the self and those in the immediate environment</td>
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<td><strong>CONVENTIONAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpersonal experiences</td>
<td>Seeking conformity and consistency in moral action with significant others</td>
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<td>The societal point of view</td>
<td>Seeking conformity and consistency with what one perceives to be the opinions of the larger community</td>
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<td><strong>POSTCONVENTIONAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Observing individual and group (societal) rights</td>
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<td>Conscience and logic</td>
<td>Seeking to apply universal principles of right and wrong</td>
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WHAT SORT OF PERSON SHOULD I STRIVE TO BE?
CARL ROGERS’ (1902-1987)  
CONCEPT OF A FUNDAMENTAL HUMANIST ATTITUDE

**Empathy:**

knowing another person’s emotions in order to understand the feelings, perceptions and thoughts of the other party, who consequently will be understood, receive attention and respect.

**Acceptance:**

and appreciation of your counterpart even if you do not share the views of your counterpart, you show a respectful and appreciative attitude and communicate it through interest, benevolence and attention.

**The congruence or genuineness of the social worker:**

which is not hidden behind a ‘role’ or phrases. This also requires an emotional connection in order to be able to enter into a real relationship between person to person. Only in this way, trust can be established.
Article 25

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.
WHAT ETHICAL CHARACTERISTICS SHOULD A SOCIAL WORKER HAVE?
VALUES

• Values may be **defined as general standards**, as measure of kindness or as desires, as the highest norms of order

• Values are the **guidelines by which** individuals lives, for example; equality, democracy, respect for human dignity etc.

• The values by which an individual lives helps and assists in moderating their behaviour and identity on a daily basis. **Values are moral goals for which we strive after.**

• **Not all values are universal** as we can clearly see by the cultural variation od values between nations

• **Values legitimize rules** because they embody values which are accepted by that given society.
**Preparation:**
Create groups with min. 3 to max. 6 students in one group

**Activity:**
- What has influenced your personal values?
- What are the values impact the family in our case study?

What is your rationale for this answers...
No matter the ethical code in use, it should describe best practice standards that ensure that the minimum of social protection is provided, a minimum standard that can not be violated if someone is to be a professional in the field.

This is accomplished by the code providing direct guidance through the use of guidelines.

Where the guidelines delineate duties and responsibilities of social workers within their social institutions it also guarantees the freedom and fundamental rights of persons in need, as such ethical principles in social work are based on fundamental values of human rights.
“Care, support and assistance versus control and demands.

The conflict between, on the one hand, defending/ protecting certain clients and, on the other, taking into consideration the interests of those closely related and others.

The right of the child to advantageous living conditions versus the right of the parents to exert their parentage and live their family lives on their own terms.

Respect for a person’s right to self-determination and freedoms versus the risk of one’s efforts leading to the stigmatization of that person and their wounded self-esteem.

Maintaining loyalty with the work and the organisation, even when one finds policy and working conditions to be contrary to well-founded practice and the best interests of the client, and perhaps also to juridical norms for the work”. (Akademikerförbundet SSR, 2006)

Based on the case study which ethical challenge you may face? How would you handle them?
VALUES
SOCIAL WORK WITH CHILDREN

Working with children is a great responsibility, and as for social workers it should focus our attention as they are the most vulnerable members of society.

Expert knowledge is important but that is only one part of working successfully with children.

A critical aspect of working with children, adolescents and families is whether you can find the proverbial thread to each, **as a trustful relationship is the foundation of social work.**

In this regard you should:

- Meet the children and adolescents with a sense of empathy and a distinctive sensitivity
- Respect the children and adolescent’s opinions, attitudes and motivations
- Know the family backgrounds; the cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to understand the living environments.
- Understand identity crises and rebellion of adolescent or teenagers.
- Look for social behaviours or causes of addiction and violence
SOME ASPECTS OF SOCIETY AND LIFE WILL HAVE A LARGE IMPACT ON A CHILD’S WELLBEING AND THE FOLLOWING FACTORS SHOULD BE CONSIDERING IN REGARDS TO OUR CASE STUDY:

1. Traditional and cultural diversity
2. Poverty
3. Education about the social work services
What particular attention should be paid when the work with children?

Which skillset and values should social worker have?

Are there any challenges they may have personal or cultural ones?

Do you think the mother and the children are suffering from patriarchy?

How do you assess the emotional development of the children in the Halimi family and their identity formation?

Do you think the children realize they are being exploited because their father forces them to beg?
REFERENCES
AND SUGGESTED READINGS


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AND SUGGESTED READINGS


THANK YOU!

FALEMINDERIT!