

Practice Research and Service User Perspectives

Emnekode: NOSWEL xxx

ECTS: 10

Module: Practice Research and Service User Perspectives (10 ECTS)

Language: English

Semester: Autumn

Content:

The module is connected closely to modules 'Problem based learning (15 ECTS) and 'Field Study (5 ECTS). Although divided into three modules the three modules will be overlapping as 'Practice Research and Service User Perspectives' will be the focus of the Field Study and the PBL-project.

The aim of the module is to provide students with knowledge, skills and competences to 1) understand and conduct practice research, 2) understand and study user perspectives and 3) combine practice research and service user perspectives, 4) collaborate with service users in specific processes

Module structure

The module is divided into different subjects:

- Practice Research and knowledge production :
 - What is practice in social work?
 - How is it possible to establish learning- and knowledge production processes in social work practice/ within welfare professions?
- What is Practice Research?
- Possibilities and barriers in Practice Research – learning processes/development and research, different interests, different forms of knowledge and experiences and negotiation as a tool in practice research.
- Practice research connected to different scientific and methodological approaches – evidence based social work, traditional scientific approaches/methods.
- Examples of and experience from practice research
- Service Users and social work in a critical perspective:
 - what is a service user?
 - from victim to user?
 - the modern power perspective?
- Concepts and notions in service user perspectives – involvement, participation, democratic processes/strategies.
- Service users in social work (practice) research
- The connection between practice research and service user perspectives
- Seminar discussion on issues connected to producing a practice research design

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are defined as statements of what a student knows, understands and is able to do upon completion of a learning process. Learning outcomes are

defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competences. The integration of knowledge, skills, attitudes and displaying competences, promote an approach that sustain the development of analytical and critical attitude when reflecting upon specific situations.

On completion of this module the student will have:

Knowledge:

- about practice research theories, methodologies and processes
- about service user perspectives and how to integrate these in social work and practice research processes
- about possibilities and barriers in service user perspectives

Skills:

- to identify, analyze and understand how practice research and service user perspectives are at work and constitute complex dynamics within social work practice
- to demonstrate analytical knowledge in collaboration with different stakeholders in social work

Competences:

- to conduct a practice research based study in institutional contexts characterized by a complexity
- to reflect theoretically, methodologically and ethically in correlation with practice research processes and service user approaches
- to utilize user perspectives as a driving force
- to take responsibility for his/her own learning processes and outcome

Study Methods:

Lectures, group work and discussions. All students are expected to read the syllabus, and participate in group work.

Assessment:

On the basis of both lectures and common discussions of chosen subjects, students individually produce a design for a practice research based research/investigation. The design is expected to be connected to the focus in the Field Study and the upcoming PBL-project.

Readings:

Beresford, P., Adshead, L. and Croft, D. (2006) Palliative Care Social Work and Service users - Making Life Possible (19 sider) Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London (Kompendium)

Beresford, Peter Service Users' Knowledges and Social Work Theory: Conflict or Collaboration? (15 sider), British Journal of Social Work Vol. 30 2000 p.: 489-503. (Kompendium)

Beresford, Peter User Involvement in research: Exploring the challenges (12 sider), Nursing Times Research 2003 8:36. Jan 2001. (Kompendium)

Beresford, Peter and Croft, Suzy Service Users' Knowledges and the Social Construction of Social Work (23 sider), Journal of Social Work 2001 1:295. (Kompendium)

Uggerhøj, L. (2011) 'What is Practice Research in Social Work – Definitions, barriers and Possibilities,' Social Work & Society, Vol. 9

Uggerhøj, Lars (2014) Learning from each other - Collaboration Processes in Practice Research, Nordic Social Work Research, Vol. 4, Supplement 1, 2014, p.44-57

Uggerhøj, Lars (2014) 'The Powerful meeting between Social Workers and Service Users: Needs, Barriers and Possibilities in Participation Processes in Agency Settings' in Matthies, Aila-Leena and

Uggerhøj, Lars (2014) 'Participation, Marginalization and Welfare Services – Concepts, Politics, and Practices Across European Countries, Ashgate, England

Evaluation:

The module will be evaluated at the end of the semester

Responsible faculty and department:

Faculty of social sciences, Department of Sociology and Social Work

Coordinator:

Maja Lundemark Andersen