Exploring change of students’ motivation and factors affecting it in residential practicum at nursing institutions for children from analysis of their journals.

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ABSTRACT

The quality and quantity of social work practicum is recently an oft-discussed topic. In considering it, it is most important that there be cooperation among institutions, schools, and students in thinking about the training program. The first step in this consideration is to examine students’ motivation change during the time they are engaged in the practicum. We feel it is necessary not only to analyze motivation, but also to observe and report on how motivation changes over time. The purpose of this paper thus is to research motivation, and explore the factors which affect students’ motivation and any changes in their motivation.

We chose five students who have experience in a residential practicum at nursing institution for children. We then analyzed their journals and papers which show changes in their work motivation and factors affecting those changes. One result of our research is that we found there are three factors that affect changes. The first factor was “the relationship with children”. Students wonder about the gap between reality and the ideal and had difficulty in expressing themselves in front of children. The second factor was “the change of vision by progression of time”. First students freeze on one-to-one relationship with child. Then they paid greater attention to child’s environment and merits and demerits of institutional care life. The third factor that affects motivation changes was found to be “the training program”. As soon as students began to get more accustomed to their circumstances, they had to transfer or move to a different section or sections, and began again “making relations with the child”.

We suggest that both the supervisor and practicum instructor need to work more carefully and attentively with students in order to maintain the continuity of practicum training so that students can more deeply consider what they must do in their work.

Key Words: Social Work Practicum, nursing institutions for children, motivation