

Tiedekunta-Fakultet-Faculty Valtiotieteellinen tiedekunta		Laitos-Institution-Department Department of Social Psychology	
Tekijä-Författare-Author Koskimies, Silka			
Työn nimi-Arbetets titel-Title Challenges of a Multi-Ethnic Society : Social Work with Minority Ethnic Groups in England and Finland			
Oppiaine-Läroämne-Subject Social Psychology			
Työn laji-Arbetets art-Level Master's thesis		Aika-Datum-Month and year 1999-11-10	Sivumäärä-Sidantal-Number of pages 89, xi s.
<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>Social work is today faced with a bigger diversity in society and ethnically mixed client groups. Mainstream social work methods are not always enough to meet the needs of all these new client groups. Therefore, social work has to develop its practices to be able to meet the challenges of the multi-ethnic society. The aim of this study is to compare how social work in England and Finland has responded to its minority ethnic clients, what policies and practices are developed.</p> <p>The study is a case study of social work in two local areas, namely the London borough of Islington in England and the city of Vantaa in Finland. The study material consists of semi-structured interviews with twelve social workers from different social service departments in Islington and Vantaa and of policy and practice documents. The study is a qualitative study and the interview material is analysed by using grounded theory (Strauss & Corbin 1990) and comparative methodology (Miles & Huberman 1994).</p> <p>A comparative framework was developed firstly by comparing different concepts used in each country concerning social work and minority ethnic groups, secondly by examining the situation of the minority ethnic groups in each country and finally by using theoretical literature for analysing the study material. The theoretical framework was mainly developed by theories about minority political ideologies (Ely and Denney 1989), theories about ethnic identity (Liebkind 1992, Hutnik 1991) and by a multicultural awareness framework (Matinheikki-Kokko 1997).</p> <p>The results of the study show that both countries have developed some responses to take into account the needs of minority ethnic clients. However, in Vantaa the process has just recently started. In Vantaa the services are based on an equality principle, which means in Finnish conditions that all clients are given the same kind of services. This has shown to be problematic as the service are often based on majority needs, which does not support minority groups. The effects might be the opposite, that is assimilationist. In Islington the social workers strive also for equality, but the starting point is more pluralistic, as the social workers attempt to take into account cultural background when providing services. The study showed also the importance of a clearly stated policy, which particularly takes into account minority ethnic groups. The policy has to be clearly outlined for all staff and even for clients. To put policy into practice means that it has to be effectively implemented. This means firstly that the whole social service department has to be aware of the needs of minority ethnic groups and of adequate intervention strategies to meet the needs. Secondly, the social workers have to be aware of the situation of their minority ethnic clients. This means that the social workers cannot be left alone with the responsibility to improve services. The social service department has to support the social workers by providing them means to develop the services. This includes a clear policy statement, training for all staff and regular supervision and discussions in meetings about issues concerning minority ethnic groups.</p>			
<p>Avainsanat-Nyckelord-Keywords</p> <p>multi-ethnicity - principles - social work ethnic minorities - clients - social services monikulttuurisuus - periaatteet - sosiaalityö sosiaalipalvelut - vähemmistöt etniset ryhmät - asiakkaat - sosiaalihuolto</p>			
Säilytyspaikka-Förvaringsställe-Where deposited			
Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information			