

Summary

The thesis deals with the role of the interpretive method in direct social work in assessing the needs of the client and his/her situation. In the thesis we try to point out that only a reflexive approach in direct social work is not sufficient in order to reach an assessment of the case on the part of the assisting social worker in such a quality, when his proposed solutions will be effective and at the same time accepted on the part of the client. The main theoretical foundations of the thesis are the concept of social work as a humanistic interpretive discipline and hermeneutics understood as a theory of understanding and interpretive method. In the area of social work theory and reflexivity we draw mainly on the studies of Pavel Navrátil. In the field of hermeneutics we rely on hermeneutic interpretive concepts formulated mainly by Hans-Georg Gadamer. The core of the research is the analysis of the social worker's work with a specific representative case. Using a selected example from practice, we show that the principles of hermeneutics can be applied in working with a case and in the search for its solution. The paper also highlights what this style of work brings to social work practice and to the life of the person in need when the helper consciously works with the basic elements of the chosen interpretive method, such as preconceptions, the hermeneutic circle or the merging of horizons.

Keywords

Reflexivity, social work, client situation assessment, helping, needy, hermeneutics, horizon, hermeneutic circle, understanding, prejudices.