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Between Psychiatry and special education

People with intellectual disability and challenging behavior and/or mental disorder

Abstract

The aim of this PhD project is to investigate the quality of collaboration between psychiatry and special education in the care and support of people with intellectual disability and challenging behavior and/or mental disorder. Furthermore, I investigate if self-assessed knowledge and willingness to work with this clientele correlates with the quality of interprofessional collaboration. It is understood that interprofessional collaboration is key to a high-quality support for people with intellectual disability and challenging behavior and/or mental disorder. Still the relation between special education and psychiatry is often described as burdened, even though there has never been a study to investigate the quality of interprofessional collaboration between these two professions. Moreover, international studies showed that psychiatrists do not feel competent or comfortable to treat people with intellectual disability. I argue that first in order to understand this difficult relation, one has to put in into a historical context and understand the different idea of men, that the two professions inherent. In addition, I argue that without sufficient knowledge and willingness to work with this clientele in both professions, there is no ground to establish a high-quality interprofessional collaboration. A claim I am going to investigate in my quantitative research.