Noora Tuomisto & Eeva Ekqvist & Suvi Raitakari:

Relevance of recovery orientation as discourses of hope in interview-speech of mentally ill youth

In this article it is clarified 1) what kinds of hope discourses young people produce in interview speech in term of psychic recovery, 2) how the discourses in question embody the cultural context and 3) what kind of perception is possible for a young person as a recoverer of himself in various discourses. The data consists of interviews conducted during the mental health rehabilitation period of 25 young people. In the study, the interview speech pinpointed three different discourses of hope: a discourse of hopelessness, a discourse of cautious hope, and a discourse of strong hope. In the discourse of hopelessness, hope for recovery was defined as impossible and young people’s perception of themselves as a recoverer appears to be at the mercy of their illness. In a discourse of cautious hope, there were reservations about psychological recovery, enabling the youngster to perceive himself as a cautiously hopeful recoverer, subject to cultural context expectations of youth rehabilitation. Young people who produced a strong discourse of hope were confident about mental recovery and embodied themselves as active recoverers.

Pia Koivumäki:

The lived situation of life in social work with substance abuse abusers: A philosophical analysis of Rauhala’s concept of situation

The concept of life situation is crucial in social work but there is no a sufficient definition of the concept. The strength of the concept of life situation is that it is not stigmatizing. There is also a need to clarify the concept of life situation in the context of working with substance abusers in which drug problems nowadays are
understood as individual’s disease. I define the concept of life situation by investigating it in light Lauri Rauhala’s concept of situation. A research material consists of three most important Rauhala’s works. The research method is Ilkka Niiniluoto’s philosophical method that includes three phases: problematization, explication and argumentation. In holistic context the concept of life situation is defined as a many dimensional lived situation of life from a first person point of view. The orientation of life situation can expand a narrow orientation of disease and reduce stigmatization in substance abuse problem.

JENNA SYRJÄLÄ:

SENSE OF BELONGING FOR HOUSING SERVICES AMONG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The focus of this article is the meanings of sense of belonging for a temporary accommodation and things that strengthen and weaken the sense of belonging on the experiences of homeless individuals. Emotional geography was used as the theoretical framework for the study. The study consisted of 19 interviews with homeless persons living in a temporary accommodation. The results show that the homeless individuals use four interpretative repertoires in describing sense of belonging for the housing services. Sense of belonging is constructed in a relationship to other residents, in an appreciative and respectful encounter with workers, personal space which enables to control a sense of belonging and through activity and doing. The study suggests that the housing services should be organized according to these three dimensions of sense of belonging (relationality, materiality and activity) to strengthen homeless persons’ place-belongingness.

MARJATTA KEKKONEN & KAJA APPELQVIST-SCHMIDLECHNER & MERVI HAAVANLAMMI & PÄIVI KÄNKÄNEN:

ICEHEARTS-PROGRAMME AS SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS – THE TINY QUESTION, HOW ARE YOU DOING

Icehearts is a long-term sport-based programme aiming at prevention of social marginalization. Aim of the study was to describe parents’ experiences of perceived social support provided by the programme. The data was gathered in five focus group interviews among parents (n=28) of participating children (n=54) in spring 2019. ATLAS.ti was used for the analysis of the data. Results showed that parents got concrete support in everyday life, advice for schooling and upbringing of the child. Furthermore, parents appreciated the 24/7 support of Icehearts mentors and their attendance in different service meetings. Parents reported positive impacts in parenting and schooling. Results are discussed in relation to parents’ coping with everyday life, received emotional support and Icehearts-mentor as a positive role model. NGO-based Icehearts programme complements public services by providing preventive child welfare services for vulnerable families with children. Results are part of the longitudinal Icehearts-study (2015–2028).