Accountability and power: Practicing social justice in clinical social work

Handout-Activity Companion

Situate yourself/others (*Include if supervisee, novice/seasoned clinician or supervisor/coach):

Personal Values:

Relevant SW Ethics and Values:

Historical and contemporary lens of clinically expressed concerns:

Your ethical position on engagement in clinical activism (collaborating or countering):

Next Steps:
FIGURE 1. Ethical Preferences for Empowerment Social Work Practice (p. 33)

Handout-Draft Informed Consent

Use this document to create or update your Informed Consent for Potential Clients, Supervisees, or Participants. Identify instances where the tenets of intersectionality are reflected (either directly or indirectly).

**Personal Ethos** (e.g., Spirituality, Meaningful work, Compassionate treatment of others, Sexuality, Social Justice and Equity, Cultural Humility/Sensitivity/Consciousness)

**Statement of Personal or Agency Mission, Purpose and Values** (e.g., Position Contemporary Focus within Historical Context, Discuss Perception of/Relationship with Client/Consumer, Staff, Board, Community Members Power)

**Informed Consent for Potential Clients/Supervisees/Participants** (e.g., Education, Theoretical Orientation and Primary Tenets, Preferred Supervision Models)
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| 1.0 ONTOLOGY: What exists in the human world that we can acquire knowledge about? |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.1 Naïve realism | 1.2 Structural realism | 1.3 Critical realism | 1.4 Bounded relativism | 1.5 Relativism |
| Reality can be understood using appropriate methods | Reality is described by scientific theory, but its underlying nature remains uncertain | Reality captured by broad critical examination | Mental constructions of reality are equal in space & time within boundaries (e.g., cultural, moral, cognitive) | Realities exist as multiple, intangible mental constructions; no reality beyond subjects |

2.0 EPISTEMOLOGY: How do we create knowledge?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1 Objectivism</th>
<th>2.2 Constructionism*</th>
<th>2.3 Subjectivism</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meaning exists within an object: an objective reality exists in an object independent of the subject</td>
<td>Meaning created from interplay between the subject &amp; object: subject constructs reality of object</td>
<td>Meaning exists within the subject: subject imposes meaning on an object</td>
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3.0 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE: What is the philosophical orientation of the researcher that guides their action/research?

Knowledge acquisition is deductive, 'value-free', generalizable  
Knowledge acquisition is inductive, 'value-laden', contextually unique

3.1 Positivism
Natural science methods (posit, observe, derive logical truths) can be applied to the social sciences

3.2 Post-positivism
Multiple methods are necessary to identify a valid belief because all methods are imperfect

3.3 Structuralism
The source of meaning comes from the formal structure found in language & can apply to all aspects of human culture

3.4 (Social) Constructivism
Meaning making of reality is an activity of the individual mind

3.5 Interpretivism
Natural science methods cannot apply to social science; interpretations of reality are culturally derived & historically situated

3.5a Hermeneutics
Hidden meaning (of language) exists in texts, practices, events & situations, beneath apparent ones

3.5b Phenomenology
The essence of human experience of phenomena is only understood when the researcher separates their own experiences

3.5c Symbolic interactionism
The researcher must take the position of those researched (interaction) by sharing language & other tools (symbols)

3.6 Critical theory
Research & theory should be used to change situations (focuses on power relations, critiques assumptions & evolves)

3.6a Emancipatory
The subjects of social inquiry should be empowered

3.6b Advocacy or participatory
Politics & political agendas should be accounted for

3.6c Feminism
The world is patriarchal & the culture it inherits is masculine

3.7 Post-structuralism
Different languages & discourses divide the world & give it meaning

3.8 Post-modernism
Truth claims are socially constructed to serve interests of particular groups, methods are equally distrusted; might not be possible to arrive at any conclusive definition of reality

3.9 Pragmatism
All necessary approaches should be used to understand research problem

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References


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Lin (Eds.), Positive psychology in racial and ethnic groups: Theory, research, and practice, 83-107. doi:10.1037/14799005


