Review of the Volume
Construcția socială a
supervizării în
asistența socială
[Social Construction of
Supervision in Social
work], Author: Elena
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Abstract: The supervision of the social services is highlighted in the literature through a series of practices specific to the field of social services. There must always be a relationship between the supervisor and the supervisee in order to ensure qualitative actions, but also in order to improve the characteristics of this relationship. The author Elena Unguru brings to the forefront a new approach in her doctoral thesis, published as a book with a title “Construcția socială a supervizării în asistența socială” [Social construction of supervision in the social work], by Lumen Publishing House from Iași, Romania, in 2019.

Keywords: *Supervision; social work; services; qualitative actions.*

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The social work services in Romania have improved over time, and with Romania's accession to the EU, more and more recommendations have been made regarding the quality of services. The supervision of these services, although apparently simple, brings together several areas. As the author points out, this is an interdisciplinary approach. The ethical perspective is highlighted as an integral part of the supervision of social work services (Unguru, 2019). In this context, the author develops an applicable model, which supports the interdisciplinarity by which she treated this topic.

The author reviews a number of international perspectives from countries such as: South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, Singapore and the United Kingdom. She highlights the ethical consideration characteristic of the supervision process. At the same time, she is bringing to the forefront social constructionism – as part of the postmodern perspective –, as the author explains the way in which individuals describe the world in which they live, i.e. the social reality.

As the author analyzes the models from the countries listed above, the relationship between the supervisor and the supervisee ceases to be a dominant power relationship, becoming a collaborative one: “The seductive strategies aim at transforming the supervisor into a close friend of the supervised person, regardless of the party initiating this approach, the replacement of the supervision relationship with a protective mentoring relationship and, in general, the renunciation to at least one of the supervision functions, in order to partially explore that side of the process that suits both parties, thus ensuring the comfort of communication” (Unguru, 2019).

It is therefore noteworthy that in general relationships of subordination must be transformed into collaborative relationships (Sandache, 2016) in order to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the services provided.

Regarding the perspective one has in Romania, we can say that the relationship between the supervisor and the supervisee is based on help and support and one of the most important dimensions is the education. From this viewpoint, an important topic is that of appreciative supervision, which aims at “following a particular model of practice in the supervision process, starting from the evaluation of strengths and also of strategies for developing the practice of supervision and the relationship between the supervisor and the supervisee, in the context of designing and following concrete results of the supervision process” (Unguru, 2019).

Starting from Grounded Theory (Unguru & Sandu, 2019), the author elaborates an interpretive model and, at the same time, the construction of a new, inductive model. The author's research aims to verify some hypotheses, and from this standpoint the work "The social construction of supervision in the social work" skillfully combines the qualitative and the quantitative research. At the same time, during the elaboration of the model, the emphasis was placed on the current perspective that is found in the current practice, but also on the relationship of power and domination specific to the supervisee – supervisor relationship.

The model proposed by the author Elena Unguru is one that contributes to the construction of a different vision of the relationship between the supervisor and supervisee. The ethical perspective comes to complete and to make the strict dimension of the supervision services in social work whole, and for this reason we believe that this paper contributes to the development of important attitudes and models for practice in the social work. The paper rises to international standards and can be considered a reference for both the specialists in the field and the researchers in the international arena.

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