

POSTER (EMPIRICAL)

Title: Collaborative development education – building a partnership between higher education and working life

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Aims

The Collaborative Intensity project being carried out by the city of Espoo and the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences during 2008-2011 has made possible a pilot study of collaborative development education. The aim of the Collaborative Intensity project is to build up a partnership between the university and working life that will produce competencies for both, and the opportunity to benefit from each other's competencies in a consultative and cooperative relationship between equals. The pilot study is part of a sub-project called Advancing the patient's functional ability, which is involved in developing service-minded competencies and methods promoting expertise for the new hospital planned in Espoo.

Methodology

The starting point in collaborative development education is the targets agreed by the pilot study leadership and supervisors, in which activities can take concrete form. Commitment and support are promoted by appointed contact persons and the Collaborative Intensity project team. The tool for building up Collaborative development education was the survey done of the physical mobility and physical aid satisfaction of 12 elderly patients in four different wards at the Espoo hospital between March and September 2010..

Those taking part in carrying out Collaborative development education were the Espoo hospital's working life developers, teaching developers at the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, members of the Collaborative Intensity project team and 45 physical equipment technicians as well as physical therapy students. The fields involved, such as physical equipment services, are so broad that the expertise of all participants is needed.

Findings

The educational benefit of Collaborative development education can be examined from three different angles. These are:

- 1) knowledge production ,
- 2) change in practical operations
- 3) learning/competence development

Collaborative teaching development has made possible the interdisciplinary production of practical knowledge for the benefit of customers, in which the same phenomenon is examined from the knowledge base of different fields.

In the pilot targets, the strengthening of multiprofessional activity and increase in interaction. At the Espoo hospital, innovative changes aimed at improving patients' functional status, and based on the initiative of university and working life participants in Collaborative development education. A survey taken of experiences with concrete working equipment (Quest-usability scale for assistive technology, Elderly mobility scale).

The authentic contact between University of Applied Sciences students and working life has made possible work with the elderly as well as meeting the challenges of enhancing the functional ability of the elderly. For teachers of the University of Applied Sciences, Collaborative development education offers opportunities and challenges for developing teaching and guidance.

Theoretical and educational significance of the research.

In Collaborative development education it is not only a question of matching participants and activities, but also a question of developing new, cooperative activity on the common borderline between working life and university. Development is a process and requires partnership. Through collaborative teaching these partners can provide each other with competencies and utilize each other's competencies in a consultative and cooperative relationship between equals. Of central importance is learning in a collaborative environment.