

Discrepancy Between Competence and the Demands of the Profession and the Job

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PURPOSE: In the Danish Physiotherapy profession both educators and chief therapists refer to an idea, describing the newly qualified therapist's experience of discrepancy between his own competence and the demands of the profession and the job. The purpose of the study was to investigate how the newly qualified physiotherapists experience their entrance into the profession. This knowledge is of importance for designing a future quantitative survey of the field. **RELEVANCE:** This study is important to both educators, hospitals and clinics, because we hereby obtain knowledge and understanding of the conditions and circumstances, that are important, compared to succeeding as newly qualified. This is essential to future educational planning. **Subjects:** this study is based on four qualitative semi-structured interviews of newly qualified bachelors in physiotherapy. Inclusion of informants was strategic in relation to sex, educational institution and work place. **Methods and materials:** the study is a qualitative hermeneutic study, based on interviews. The interviews took place between a half year and one-and-half-year after graduation; were tape-recorded and transcribed in extenso., **analysis:** the analysis was carried out according to a giorgi inspired editing-analysis-style. The material was coded and then categorised and condensed. Communicative validation and analytical generalization according to kvale was used and the findings were analysed and discussed in relation to aristotle and theories on learning and competence. **RESULTS:** The newly qualified physiotherapists experience recognition and acceptance as equal by their colleagues. They find it important to be able to create a dialogue with the patient and offer a treatment that makes sense to the patient. They regard their clinical reasoning as mainly based on experience obtained in clinical practice during school. The informants express self-confidence and see them as well qualified for their job. They have a respectfully critical approach to their elderly colleagues and feel a great professional responsibility towards patient, profession and hospital. **CONCLUSION:** The following issues seem important for the newly qualified physiotherapists experience of success: 1) The feeling of recognition and acceptance from colleagues. 2) The opportunity for exchange of experience with skilled colleagues. 3) Being able to establish a patient relation based on dialogue, and thereby pass on meaningful physiotherapy to the patient. The newly qualified physiotherapists make use of an experience based context dependent treatment strategy, and they look at evidence-based physiotherapy as primarily a quantitative concept. This last result indicates the need of a discussion of the nature of physiotherapeutic evidence base, and how we integrate the use of methods from social sciences in physiotherapeutic education.