An Examination of Homophobia and Social Work Practice Among a Sample of School Social Workers

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Agenda

- The personal is political
- Overview of study
- Rational for the study
- Literature review
- Theoretical foundations
- Research questions
- Methodology
- Preliminary findings
- Implications
The personal is political

- On Feb. 12, 2008 Lawrence King was in the school’s computer lab with 24 other students.
- A classmate walked into the room with a gun and shot him in the head. He died on Feb. 14, 2008.
Overview of study

The study addresses a gap in knowledge about homophobia among school social workers (SSW) and SSW’s practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) students. The examines:

1. the current degree of homophobia among school social workers
2. whether homophobia among school social workers is related to use of gay affirmative practice and if so,
3. how homophobia is related to use of gay affirmative practice,
4. and whether school climate moderates that relationship between homophobia and gay affirmative practice
Rational for the study

- LGBT youth are one of the most vulnerable school populations in contemporary society
- Ideological contradictions exist between our professions’ espoused beliefs and actual practice
- Gap in knowledge about SSW’s practice with LGBT youth
- Importance of examining the relationship, if any between homophobia and gay affirmative practice
Literature Review

- Homophobia and Hate
- Social workers beliefs
- Gay Affirmative Practice
- School Climate
- Correlates to homophobia
Literature Review

Hate Reconceptualized

Seen violence

Unseen Violence

Individual Violence

Institutional Violence

Structural-Cultural Violence
Theoretical Foundations

- Bandura (1977) Social Learning Theory
- Observation-Modeling-Imitation
- Hofstede (2001) Organizational Theory
- Power-Individualism-Collectivism
- Organizational Justice:
- Distributive-Interactional Justice
Research Questions

1. What is the degree of homophobia among School Social Workers? Does it vary by demographic Variables that include religiosity, age, sexual orientation, personal contact with LGBT individuals, education and training about LGBT individuals?
Research Questions

2. What is the degree of homophobia among School Social Workers? Does it vary by demographic Variables that include religiosity, age, sexual orientation, personal contact with LGBT individuals, education and training about LGBT individuals?
Research Questions

3. To what extent do School Social Workers engage in gay affirmative practice with LGBT students? Does it vary by demographic variables that include religiosity, age, sexual orientation, personal contact with LGBT individuals, education and training about LGBT individuals?
Research Questions

4. Is the association between homophobia among School Social Workers and use of gay affirmative practice moderated by school climate? Does it vary by demographic Variables that include religiosity, age, sexual orientation, personal contact with LGBT individuals, education and training about LGBT individuals?
Methodology

- On-line confidential survey
- Sampling Frame:
  - School Social Workers of America Association (SWAA)
  - American Council for School Social Workers
  - Various School Social Work Chapters
Preliminary Findings

- Demographics
- Homophobia
- Gay Affirmative Practice
- School Climate
- Education/Training
- Religiosity
Implications

- Practice Implications
- Policy Implications
- Educational Implications
- Research Implications
An Examination of Homophobia and Social Work Practice Among a Sample of School Social Workers” - Milka Ramírez, MSW, a member of the School Social Work Association of America and a school social worker in Chicago is conducting her doctoral research, and would like you to participate in the 30 minute survey.

Please take time to participate in this important study by clicking on the below:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/homophobiaandsocialworkpractice
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References


References


