

To Implement Systematic Follow Up - Challengers and Experiences from a Case Study

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Support for Children as next of kin

- Municipalities, county/regional bodies, non-profit organizations and churches
- Support groups
- Knowledge of support groups' methods and results is limited
- Are the efforts of any help for the children?
- National Board of Health and Welfare



Systematic follow up

Continuously document individual children's problems, needs, support and results

- See if the individual child receives satisfactory support, needs extended support, is there any need for other support and that the support does not harm?
- Results from their support activities at group level - continuous organization development



Part of a project

- The National Board of Health and Welfare claims that the support activities are monitored through systematic follow-up
- Challenge to implement new methods
- With the support of Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Research questions



- How do PAR work in order to implement systematic follow-up?
- How can the process be when researchers and staff collaborate in order to implement systematic follow-up?

Process



- A single case study
- Group leaders collaborate with the researchers, in order to implement systematic follow up
- Data were collected from the group leaders through seven meetings, documents and notes
- Hermeneutic approach – How can we understand what happen in the process



The support group

- Children aged 6-12 years whose parents or siblings had a serious medical condition or disability
- Group meetings - six times/semester for one year
- Eight children for each group
- Various themes every session
- Parents - separate group, three times per semester.

Results

PAR: the process

The process can be described in four phases:

- enthusiasm,
- confusion,
- fumbling
- decision



The results show three aspects about the process

- Time: a common dance at different pace
- “Land of uncertainty”
- Pleasure and creativity



Time: a common dance at different pace

- The researchers wanted more time for reflection,
- while group leaders were pressured to develop interventions that could be used at work



Land of uncertainty



- Group leaders, wanted the researchers to answer questions
- Researchers, the role of "expert"
- Different perspective and knowledge were met which led to uncertainty, which in turn was a potential for creative development.

Pleasure and creativity



- The dialogue was characterized by reflection and hermeneutical approach
- The group leader stated that the researchers were like "their blueberry soup at "the Vasa Race"

Conclusion



- PAR is a creative research design with synergic effect to support the implementation process, while common understanding developed



Thanks!

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