
Abstract

Psychopathology of interprofessional teams: A consideration based on a case study focusing on group phenomena

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Recent healthcare increasingly emphasizes collaboration by multidisciplinary teams. Individual professionals lacking knowledge and skills often explains the difficulty of their collaborations. However, we have not yet sufficiently examined the influence of the group phenomena of teams on collaborative practice. In this paper, we focused on a difficult process that a mental healthcare team experienced. Primarily by using Bion's group theory, we discussed the group's mentality and the team dynamics that developed during the collaborative process. The results clarified the following facts: A multidisciplinary team has to inevitably work at two functional levels simultaneously, the work group and the basic assumption group. A team needs to aim to remain a healthy collaborative group rather than a pathological one. This process may place professionals in a state of collaborative neurosis. We also pointed out the following strategies for surviving such psychopathology of interprofessional teams: 1) discuss small disagreements, 2) set and maintain reality principles, 3) manage conflicts within the team, and 4) learn from experience.

Keywords: mental healthcare team, group dynamics, basic assumption group, projective identification, collaborative neurosis
