



The Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice

<http://ijahsp.nova.edu>

A Peer Reviewed Publication of the College of Allied Health & Nursing at Nova Southeastern University

Dedicated to allied health professional practice and education

<http://ijahsp.nova.edu> Vol. 8 No. 3 ISSN 1540-580X

Review of: Culture in Rehabilitation: From Competency to Proficiency

Authors: Royeen, M., Crabtree, J., eds.

Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson & Prentice Hall, 2006, soft cover, 386 pp, \$62.20.

Reviewed By

Robin D. Washington. Ph.D., PT., CRC.

Alabama State University

United States

CITATION: Washington, RD. Review of: Culture in Rehabilitation: From Competency to Proficiency, by Royeen, M., Crabtree, J. The Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice. July 2010, Volume 8 Number 3.

Culture in Rehabilitation from Competency to Proficiency provides pertinent information geared specifically towards health care professionals, educators, and students working in various settings with a culturally diverse population of patients and clients. The textbook is also applicable for all individuals interested in a general perspective of culture and ethnicity as related to health care issues. Contributors of this book represent a variety of healthcare professions that include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, nursing, psychology, and pharmacy.

REVIEW

Information within this text corresponds to the American Physical Therapy Association's blueprint related to cultural competency that focuses on cultural awareness and sensitivity. The authors extend this vision, emphasizing cultural proficiency as a "process" in which one continuously "strives to gain an understanding and appreciation of others' beliefs, values, and experiences and applies what is learned to his or her daily life." Royeen and Crabtree summarize Chapter 1 by communicating to the reader that "adapting professional practice to accommodate the values and beliefs of others will lead to more culturally proficient care" and "greater empathy."

ORGANIZATION

This resourceful text is divided into three sections and comprises of 15 chapters. Each chapter consists of contributor(s), key words, objectives and a brief introduction. Thirteen of the 15 chapters end with insightful case studies and all chapters end with questions and valuable references. Photographs, tables and figures are scarce throughout the text. Two chapters end with an appendix. In Chapter 5, the appendix provides information from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and World Factbook from 2004 as related to European countries from which European Americans immigrated. The appendix in Chapter 14 provides information from the U.S. Census Bureau from 2003 highlighting the groups in poverty without health insurance and a separate chart highlights barriers to health care.

SECTION 1

Chapters 1 through 4 are included within this section. Within Chapter 1, the contributors provide an introduction to the text, purpose of rehabilitation, importance of cultural proficiency, an overview of predominant mainstream American values, cultural characteristics, and organization of the text. Operational definitions of terms related to culture, cultural sensitivity, cultural competence, cultural proficiency, and ethnicity enhance the reader's understanding of the remaining chapters. Chapters 2, 3, and 4 focus on rehabilitation from the perspective of discrimination, communication, and ethics, respectively.

SECTION 2

This section entails Chapters 5 through 12 and emphasizes ethnic diversity. The authors discuss eight broad ethnic groups: European Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Arab Americans, Judaism and Jewish Americans, Hispanic Cultures and Pacific Island Peoples. Each chapter offers an overview of the experiences, values and beliefs of each ethnic group providing the reader a clear understanding of current health beliefs, behaviors, needs, fears, and strengths. In addition, the authors discuss strategies for maximizing a culturally competent approach when providing rehabilitation services.

SECTION 3

The final section includes Chapters 13 to 17 and focuses on cultural diversity as related to gender, age, disability, poverty, class, and sexuality. This section also includes implications for rehabilitation practitioners as related to intracultural and intercultural diversity, changes in legislation, gender roles within Maslow's hierarchy of needs, goals of older individuals, and guidelines for working with individuals who are gay, lesbian, or others with different lifestyle experiences.

SUMMARY

The emphasis throughout the text is the exploration of cultural proficiency. Royeen and Crabtree clearly state that cultural proficiency "is achieved not only by learning the facts about other cultures but also by suspending one's own cultural perspectives and biases." The ultimate goal is for health care practitioners to provide culturally proficient care by "respecting the attitudes and beliefs of others even if they contradict our personal belief." Cultural proficiency as presented throughout this text makes this a strongly recommended resource for not only allied health care providers but for educators, students and others within and outside the health care field who provide services to culturally and ethnically diverse populations.