

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

based on publishing and teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Maya Tcholakova, PhD, a candidate in the competition for Associate Professor in the professional field of 1.2. Pedagogy (Social pedagogy), announced in the State Gazette No 21/ 15.03.2022

### **Contributions along theoretical and systematic lines:**

1. An in-depth analysis of classic and contemporary interpretations of humility in the fields of pedagogical sciences, humanities, and social sciences was conducted and the concept of cultural humility has been introduced into Bulgaria's specialized discourse on social pedagogy and social activities (Document 10b - N1; N3; N7; N12)
2. Theoretical formulations and conceptualizations of empowerment as a concept, process, and outcome have been summarized and the characteristics of the empowering practice in helping relationships have been clarified (Document 10b - N13; N14; N17)
3. The theoretical framework in the field of value and ethical aspects of social and socio-pedagogical work has been enriched (Document 10b - N1; N16)

### **Contributions in terms of experimental research:**

1. Using qualitative methods, conceptual bases have been studied and the challenges of implementing the integrated approach to the complex needs of health and social service users were summarized (Document 10b - N5; N15)
2. Perceptions and attitudes regarding the empowerment of specialists and clients within the context of social service practice were examined (Document 10b -N14)
3. In the field of master's programs in social work, best practices in distance learning - evidence-based practice were studied and analyzed (Document 10b -N4)
4. The prospect of using dynamic assessment through diagnostic practice analysis and a partially tested methodology to measure the learning potential of ethnic minority children aged 6 to 8 was confirmed (Document 10b -N2)

### **Contributions in the practical and applied sense:**

1. In the sphere of social pedagogy and social work, the prospects for applying the American concept of cultural humility in specific parts of education and practical realization of students in Bulgarian conditions were given (Document 10b -N1)
2. The notion of empowerment as a development of Paolo Freire's philosophical / socio-pedagogical paradigm in the training and practical realization of specialists in helping professions, including social work, has been proven in Bulgarian settings (Document 10b - N13; N14; N17)
3. Opportunities for improving the efficacy of social work through assisting families of children at risk and older adults with disabilities in community social services have been identified and recommendations have been given based on research evidence (Document 10b - N6; N8; N10; N11)

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