

The Construction Process of Motherhood about Pre-school Children
in the Parental Environment-A Social Work Viewpoint

Abstract

During the construction process of motherhood, mothers always meet with some difficulties, such as role ambivalence, role conflict, role overloading and role challenge. These difficulties imply the mother's interaction with others, and seem to be the lack of subjective construction. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to explore how the mothers interact with others to construct the motherhood roles.

This research applies the naturalistic inquiry, and uses the theoretical sampling as the principle. And the interviews are responded by eighteen mothers, their children in six kindergartens and two social welfare organizations respectively. Finally, this research applies the inductive data analysis as the qualitative data analysis method.

This research results indicate that mothers interact with others to construct five kinds of "Self" including "Birth Family Self", "Conjugal Family Self", "Child Self", "Trade-off Self" and "Regulation Self". In the research, it is also found that the main construction of "Birth Family Self", "Conjugal Family Self" and "Child Self" is affection-based trust, the main construction of "Trade-off Self" is cognition-based trust, and the main construction of "Regulation Self" is institution-based trust.

This research suggests that social workers should enhance the mothers to learn to be an active-intimate mother, to be an admired resource mother, and to be a self-transformation mother. The reflexive approaches are family social work, pre-school children welfare services, and diversity perspective.

Keywords : motherhood, pre-school children, parental environment, social construction,
personal construction