Abstract

Title: Chains of actions – interprofessional knowing in practice.

Background: Interprofessional team work is an important component in the delivery of high quality health care, not least in the area of rehabilitation. Teamwork involves continuous interaction and knowledge sharing between professionals through a complex process that can either help or hinder its success. Research on interprofessional practice and learning is increasing, using different foci and approaches to explore the issue of interprofessional collaboration. The present study is based on empirical data from ethnographic fieldwork, using a socio material approach as the theoretical framework for studying health care practice. The study has a particular focus on interprofessional collaboration and how knowing in practice is emerged and connected.

Aim: To explore how knowledge is enacted and enables interprofessional practice in a rehabilitation ward.

Method: An ethnographic design was used in order to focus on how knowledge is emerged, enacted and shared in a practice of interprofessional teamwork in health care. The analysis was an iterative process between inductive and theory driven processes of analysis.

Result: Three different situations of professional practice are presented and interpreted from a sociomaterial perspective. The situations of professional practice are highlighted as activities which hang together in a nexus of dynamic relationships between the collaborating professionals’ “doings”, “sayings” and “relatings”. The findings shows how knowing changes when taken up in action by different professionals like chains of actions. The knowing in relation to “doings”, “sayings” and “relatings” is an ongoing process which spreads and evolves between professionals during the daily work.

Conclusions: Individual’s professional “sayings” and “doings” affect other professionals’ sayings and doings in their daily work like a chain of action. The knowing spreads around the team and changes when taken up in actions by different professionals. An important issue as health professionals in a team is to participate in producing and sharing new knowledge for producing effective work in today’s health care practice.