Social Inclusion and Disability in the US and China: An International Context for Experiential Learning

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Methodology

Andragogy (adult way of learning)
- Mentorship
- Preparation Sessions
- Pieces of Project Delegated to Students

Trainings
- Logic Model (Parents and GIFT)
- Disabilities Inclusion in Faith Communities
- Forms of Communication
- Goal Setting and Conflict

Professional Development
- Home Visits
- Child Assessments
- Collaboration with Translators

Discussion

Places Visited:
→ Beijing (Fred Hollows)
→ Xian (Agape)
→ Zhengzhou (GIFT, Qisehua)
→ Hong Kong (ICC, Mother’s Choice, HOLF)

Continuum of Care:
- Congregate/Institutional Care (orphanages)
- Community-Based Care
- Faith-Based Organizations and Churches
- Prevention (Parent Support Groups and Training)

Products:
- Documentation form for GIFT
- Training resources for parents
- Survey for GIFT

Culture:
- Food
- Culture shock
- Mind-set
- Social Work (Expert vs. Client-focused)

References

Conclusions and Limitations

Conclusions:
Organizations are continuing to move toward community based care as Best Practice. As they do so, us, as students, also had goals we wanted to accomplish.
- Increased social work competency
- Global citizens and social workers
- Work together to increase confidence of G.I.F.T’s participants/leaders to meet their needs.
- Communicate experiences in order to develop professional skills for the future.
- Use the experience to help us realize how much we know.

Limitations:
- Policy Change
  - Article 46 prevented any non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from overseas to operate in mainland China until appropriately registered.
  - We could no longer go to Jinan to observe a child welfare institute (CWI) and had to reroute our trip.
- Meaning and Concepts lost in translation
  - Working through translators for both trainings and everyday conversation with locals was challenging at times.
- Culture Shock
- Frustration
- Sensory overload
- Language
- Food/Water

Future Research /Work

- Continue to network with organizations, individuals, and communities to provide people with disabilities and their families in China with better resources and support.
- Continue to provide professional social work training in Zhengzhou and surrounding areas.
- Connect interested parties with organizations in China who work with individuals with disabilities and their families in China.

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