



Disponible en ligne sur www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

et également disponible sur www.em-consulte.com



Research paper

Poverty as a situation of disability: Social workers' reticence to back active solidarity income beneficiaries' requests for disabled adults allowance



La pauvreté comme situation de handicap : les réticences des professionnels face aux demandes d'AAH dans le cadre de l'accompagnement social des bénéficiaires du RSA

Samuel Neuberg*

ENS-EHESP-CNSA, France

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 23 April 2013

Accepted 30 September 2013

Available online 14 October 2014

Keywords:

RSA

Long-term unemployment

Disability

Public policy

Support services

ABSTRACT

Social service support for beneficiaries of the French RSA (minimum income scheme) is based on reducing their problems to a series of situations blocking their “plans to return to employment”. These situations are defined in practice by the specific “programs” toward which professional may orient beneficiaries. This notion is quite close to that of “situation of disability”, as it is used in social conceptions of disability. It is the support for a specific handicapology, rooted in a representation of social service work in rupture with the traditional notion of support for disabled persons, those unfit for work. It is characterized particularly by a refusal to sort beneficiaries into overarching categories, and a change in the meaning given to people's material and cultural destitution, which is not treated as a consequence of unemployment or as a disability, but as a disabling situation responsible for their withdrawal from the employment market. These professional norms are manifest in a strong resistance when beneficiaries express the desire to seek AAH (disabled adult allowance). This reticence is explained by the simultaneous

* Correspondence. 29, rue Bernard-et-Mazoyer, 93000 Aubervilliers, France.

E-mail address: samuel.neuberg@ens.fr

transformations of both the administrative division of social support work and the social trajectories of the social workers charged with this work. AAH requests place professionals in a paradoxical situation: their general role to support people in their administrative procedures comes into contradiction with their mission to “support toward employment”, which they find radically incompatible with the posture of assistance implied by the recognition of even a partial unfitness for work.

© 2014 Published by Elsevier Masson SAS on behalf of Association ALTER.

R É S U M É

Mots clés :

RSA
Handicap
Insertion
Politiques publiques
Accompagnement

L'accompagnement social des bénéficiaires du RSA s'appuie sur la réduction de leurs difficultés à une série de situations de blocage dans leur « projet de retour à l'emploi ». Ces situations sont définies en pratiques par les « dispositifs » spécifiques vers lesquels les professionnels peuvent orienter ces bénéficiaires. Cette notion est très proche de celle de « situation de handicap », telle qu'elle est utilisée dans les conceptualisations actuelles du handicap. Elle est le support d'une handicapologie spécifique, enracinée dans une représentation du métier en rupture avec la notion traditionnelle d'assistance aux personnes handicapées, c'est-à-dire inaptes au travail. Elle se caractérise notamment par un refus des catégorisations globales des bénéficiaires et une modification de la signification accordée au dénuement matériel et culturel des personnes : celui-ci n'est pas traité comme une conséquence du chômage ou d'une déficience, mais comme une situation de handicap qui explique le retrait hors du marché du travail. Ces normes professionnelles se traduisent par une forte réticence de principe aux souhaits d'obtenir l'AAH formulés par les bénéficiaires. Cette réticence s'explique par les transformations simultanées, d'une part, de la division administrative du travail d'accompagnement, et d'autre part, des trajectoires sociales des travailleurs sociaux chargés de ce travail. Les demandes d'AAH placent les professionnels dans une situation paradoxale : leur rôle général d'accompagnement des personnes dans leurs démarches administratives devient contradictoire avec leur mission d'« accompagnement vers l'emploi », pour eux radicalement incompatible avec la posture d'assistance qu'implique la reconnaissance d'une inaptitude même partielle au travail.

© 2014 Publié par Elsevier Masson SAS pour l'Association ALTER.

French public policies for both employment and disability have experienced significant legal and regulatory transformations since 2005, with the decentralization laws of 2003, 2004, and 2005 and the creation of a new minimum income scheme in 2009 on one hand, and the 2005 law “for equality of rights and chances, participation, and citizenship of disabled persons” on the other. The publics addressed by these two branches of policy are defined in very different ways and are for the most part analysed in those terms, although their partial overlap is not ignored (Herrgott, 1999).

At the same time, ethnographic public policy analysis has made some significant contributions that have profoundly renewed sociological enquiry into the construction and concrete operations of these instruments (Dubois, 2012). My analysis takes this approach, and is based on observation of moments when the semi-autonomous sub-fields of support for disabled persons and for the unemployed (or resultant poverty) overlap. It is not intended to provide an overview of all disabled assistance, or even the cumulative effects of situations of disability compounded by material destitution. Although my analysis is based on observations of daily practices of social service professionals in charge of

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1068191>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1068191>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)