

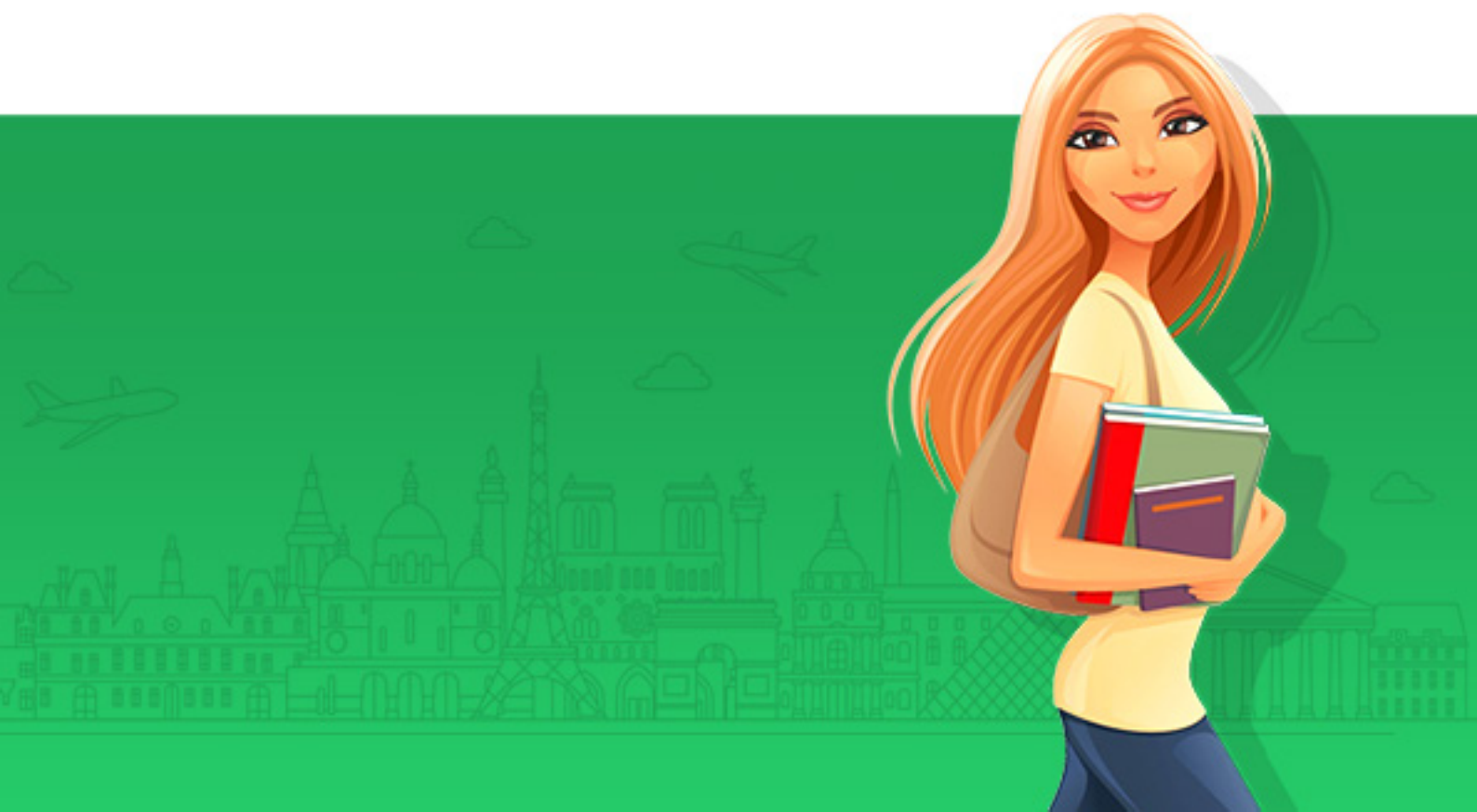


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ARTICLE CRITIQUE

Conceptual Application of
the Discrimination Model



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— Introduction

The discrimination model of counselling supervision is one of the evidence-based clinical supervision models that can be applied to direct care staff placed under adolescent residential treatment programs. This paper performs a critical appraisal of an article by Andrew M. Byrne and Shari M. Sias titled “Conceptual Application of the Discrimination Model of Clinical Supervision for Direct Care Workers in Adolescent Residential Treatment Settings”, published in 2010 in Child Youth Care Forum.

— Personal Opinion about the Article

I believe that Byrne & Sias (2010) handled the topic under discussion – conceptual application of the discrimination model of clinical supervision – exceptionally well. The authors organized the article in a manner that guarantees the logical flow of ideas beginning with introducing the topic, providing a general overview of the discrimination model of clinical supervision, its application of adolescent residential treatment, the uniqueness of adolescent residential treatment and suitability of the discrimination model in such settings, and the grounding and practice of the discrimination model of clinical supervision. The authors sum up their discussion by outlining the strengths and limitations of the model as well as areas of future research, which form core strength of the article.



— Lessons Learnt from the Article

Several lessons have been learnt from the article. The first lesson learnt from the article is that discrimination model of clinical supervision is effective in adolescent residential treatment settings because of its flexibility for both supervisee and the supervisor. This stems from the fact that the supervisor may assume the role of a consultant, counsellor or a teacher. These views have been supported by Jones, Landsverk & Roberts (2007), who asserted the effectiveness of the discrimination model of clinical supervision on adolescent residential treatment programs. The second lessons learnt from the article relate to the practical applications of the model in residential settings in terms of the focus and settings for supervision. Regarding the focus of intervention, Byrne & Sias (2010) emphasize on three aspects, which include intervention, conceptualization and personalization. Intervention is concerned with observing the supervisee's performance when he/she is interacting with counselees. Conceptualization is concerned with the manner in which the behavior of the client is explored, interpreted and viewed, which essentially focuses on how the trainee understands what is happening during sessions. Personalization is concerned with the process through which the supervisee is making the intervention by his/her own, mainly through the use of personal style in order to enhance the effectiveness of the intervention.

— Positive Side of the Article

A positive aspect of the article relates to the discussion section, whereby the authors present the strengths and weaknesses of the discrimination model as well as the areas that need further research. By



acknowledging the strengths and weaknesses of the discrimination model, the authors are providing crucial insights for direct care workers on how to make optimal use of the model. In addressing the limitations of the model, Byrne & Sias (2010) also compare the discrimination model with the parallel process, which is somewhat a good approach. Another positive aspect associated with the article relates to the credibility, which implies that the article is reliable given the expertise of the authors in the field. In this regard, both authors are faculty members at the College of Allied Health Sciences, Department of Rehabilitation Studies at the East Carolina University.

— Pros and Cons

There are a several pros associated with the article including logical flow of ideas, the structural arrangement of the article starting from the introduction and ending with a discussion section, credible authors, a comprehensive review of recent literature relating to the topic being tackled in the article, and discussion section that outlines both the strengths and weaknesses of the discrimination model of clinical supervision. Regardless of the aforementioned strengths, a significant weakness of the article is that it is solely theoretical; perhaps, the researchers could have strengthened their conceptual model by testing the discrimination model in practical settings. In addition, Byrne & Sias (2010) fail to identify the testing of this model in practical setting as an area of future research. In other words, the weakness of the article is that it is purely theoretical, and places little emphasis on an empirical evaluation of the model.



— Agreement and Disagreement with the Article

I strongly agree with the authors, from a theoretical point of view, in the manner in which they tackled the subject area of interest, especially with respect to reliance on extensive literature review. I also agree with the approach taken by the authors in the discussion section in outlining the strengths and weakness of the model as well as the areas of future research. There is no issue of disagreement in the article because it is my belief that the article satisfies the criteria for being a scholarly source.

— The Extent to Which the Article is Opinionated

The article is not opinionated in any way. It is for a reason that in illustrating their points, the authors relied significantly on an extensive review of literature. The reliability of the article is guaranteed because there are no personal opinions in it. Every aspect is cited from scholarly source rather than depending on personal opinions. In addition, the fact that the article is published in a peer-reviewed journal is a sufficient criterion to rule out the possibility of the article being based on opinion.

— Conclusiveness of the Article

The conclusions derived from the article are based on a comprehensive review of literature obtained from credible and reliable sources, which affirm the conclusiveness of the article. In the discussion section, the



authors present the strengths and weaknesses of the discrimination model, but still emphasize its effectiveness in adolescent residential treatment settings.

— Conclusion

The article by Byrne & Sias (2010) has been presented in a manner that is both logical and scholarly, which upholds the conceptual application of the discrimination model to direct care workers placed under adolescent residential treatment programs.

