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"Whi Cares ?"

"Community Child Care

"The Knox Report "

BY RUTH (ROW

The two handbooks "Who Cares ? " and "Genmunity Child Care 2 cannot be fully appreciated without also studying "The Know Report".

The research brief for thr study was to assess the adequacy of smeath services provided by the Kox Early Childhood Development Complex and as to extinute how this centre met the needs of the Knex community

The report was published at a very important time for the Victorian Department of Health is currently considering developing many more Barly Childhood Development Complexes.

It is essential that before any large secol and significant and irrecreible process is launched that there is a thorough understanding of the needs of families with young children and an assessment of the existing Early Childhood Developmen Complexes to evaluate the extent to which such centres meet these needs.

The "Who Cares?" study and the "Community Child Care " resource book are now available to give depth to this assessment.

Yoland Wadsworth's research approach is both soundly based and refreshingly simple. The lientally talked to more than I.000 people and her respect depicts in rich, sensitive detail the lives of people living in this outer suburb.and and analythmistans:

In her report " needs " are defined as " all those physical survival

arrangements and facilities required for people to function at the basic level food, clothing, shelter etc) plus all those social and emotional arrangements and facilities required by people to grow and develop to their full human potential (developmental requirements such as love, respect, self esteem, and opportunities for on-going actualisation of capacities."

She defines the word community, maintained in much the same terms as it & defined by ommunity whild Care, She states that community are creating is a process... "a community consists of a network of inter-relationships which exist in order to facilitate the me ting of enough of the members needs that the community may be considered as relatively self sufficient". Yoldan wadsworth uses the term "symbiotic role relationships" and explains that this means that for a collection of people to successfully band together for the purpose of meeting their own needs, there must be opportunity to firm relationships of mutual benefit.

The major recommedations of the Knox Report is that Early Childhood Develome t employee should enable the participation of the service consumers, other parents and interested community in the planning and management of the E.C.D.C. s program in order that the centres are continually assured of validity and adequacy.

The Knex Reportses both the people's needs and the people rich resources that are wvailable to meet these ne d, and emphasises an individual's self esteem is enhanced through as developmental community based.

Research Methodology of the "Enow Report" and the "Who Cares ?" Reportant and a brief description of "Community Child Care " Descuses Book. Those who scan these reports in search of hard data will be disappointed.

As Yelfand Wadsworth points out in her introductory remarks...
"Experience has shown me that, while neatly codifying x min x codified and quantified facts allow statements such as " 86 % needed X" they do not provide an understanding of whether 86 % would really have preferred X or whether they were only asked about X, or whether they needed X given Y. Z and Q, and would not want X given L.PT. or even whether they would actually use X if given it at all. Furthermore even accepting the validity of the statement, it does not enable an understanding of why, how, when and where the \$ 86 % needed X" REMENT nor does it relate anything of the complexity of circumstances and history lying behing its expression"

Similarly the "Who Cares?" study team state "It was not our purpose to set up objective standards by which to measure the performance of particular services but rather to find out whether families received assistance when they needed it and what they thought of the assistance they received." They state that their research is "frankly exhoratory". The research team collected qualtitative material on a wide range of family experience and them examined the pattern of relationships between family characteristics, problem solving methods and ways of using services, which emerged from this maximum.

In the Knexkreport a massive amount of material on different these are reduced to three main categories... relationships, information and resouces. Over one thousand Knix residents were interviewd.

In "Who Cares? " I50 families in three different types of mucnipal areas are examined and eventually the researchers descovered that three groups of families could be identified through the way they summix mer related to the community ser ices. These groups are called "The copers," "the vulneables" and "the appearance."

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while both "Who Cares ?" and :"The Knex Report. are based on assuming assessing human needs both reports allow subjective impressions to be part of the evaluation. However the reports integrate these subjective impressions into a throughky systematics program of data collection which can be used by both the lay person and the professions with equal case.

As most of the information in this book is based on the day to day experiences of actually establishing children's services in a variety variety of urban areas the text is mainly explanateleanism.

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