



ELTEP Case Study 2: Use of Information Sheet 1 on BBC Video Nation Materials

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Introduction

In this case study I describe an activity I ask students on the BSc Social Work to do that uses clips from the BBC Video Nation series as part of a lecture or seminar.

Module details

BA Social Work Year 1 - Social work in Context: The social and political context of social work 2

Aims (for lecture and seminar)

- Describe their understanding of the macro and micro context for social work practice
- Outline the social and political influences on current social work practice
- Analyse the impact of key concepts such as neo liberalism, the influence of the market, partnership and Managerialism
- Evaluate the extent to which social workers have a political role

Outline

1. Understanding 'social problems'
2. How social workers work with 'social problems' – linking lectures to seminars

Topic

How social workers work with social problems

Pre-requisite

To set it in context, the students will have had a lecture about social exclusion and been introduced to Levitas' concept of the three discourses. (Levitas, R. (1998) *The Inclusive Society? Social exclusion and New Labour*, Basingstoke, Macmillan)

Activity

Students are asked to view a set of video clips in the class, informed by questions given before the clips are viewed.

For each of the following clips think about:

1. Is there a 'social problem' here? If so, why? If not, what might mean that there would be? Is there more than one 'problem'?
2. What are the issues of social exclusion in each scenario?
3. How would each of the social exclusion discourses outlined by Levitas (RED, MUD or SID) explain each situation?

RED = redistributionist. Concern for those people who live in poverty. Poverty will only be addressed by redistribution of resources

MUD = moral underclass. People have excluded themselves from society by engaging in certain behaviours eg crime, being a single parent. Can apply to whole sectors/groups/neighbourhoods

SID = Social integrationist. Solution lies in paid work and being part of the labour market

(show max 4 or 5)

Disability/teenager (Chris) (2 ½ mins)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/check/videonation/media/ram/h/hereford_smalltalk?size=4x3&bgc=FF3300&nbram=1&bbram=1

Homelessness/'race' (Darrell) (2 mins 11 secs)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/check/videonation/media/ram/b/birmingham_nohome?size=4x3&bgc=FF3300&nbram=1&bbram=1

Carers/teenager/illness/learning disability (Kelly) (3 mins)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/check/videonation/media/ram/s/stoke_award?size=4x3&bgc=FF3300&nbram=1&bbram=1

Single parent (Joanne) (2 mins)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/check/videonation/media/ram/u/uk_lonely?size=4x3&bgc=FF3300&nbram=1&bbram=1

Teenage mum (Adina) (1 ½ mins)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/check/videonation/media/ram/b/beds_motherat15?size=4x3&bgc=FF3300&nbram=1&bbram=1

Domestic violence (anon) (2 mins)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/check/videonation/media/ram/l/leicester_newlife?size=4x3&bgc=FF3300&nbram=1&bbram=1

Ageing/gay couple (Bert and Ray) (2 mins)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/check/videonation/media/ram/u/uk_fiftieth?size=4x3&bgc=FF3300&nbram=1&bbram=1

Following the viewing a discussion is generated, asking people to consider:

- if there is a social work role for the scenario and, if so, what might this be.
- if there have been changes over time in relation to each person's situation in relation to social inclusion/dominant discourse which has applied

Comments on the use of the clips and technology

Using the clips from an online source in this way was new to me.

There is a wealth of clips which can be used to support the topic.

When I came to try them all out, they didn't all play with pictures as well as sound so some people may experience problems with settings and software.

I used them by setting up a link to the clips on my laptop but, with speakers, network cable etc., I found it all a bit complicated (and a health and safety nightmare). However, it was worth it because the students engaged with it and said it brought the lecture alive. It helped (most of) them to work at analysing a situation using theory, rather than just describing the theory. It also helped the ones who are more visual learners.

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