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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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Critically reflective blogs: Student experiences and reflections on engaging in reflective blog writing in Social work and mental health education.

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Critical reflection is an integral part of Social Work education that encourages the integration of theory and practice while enhancing student learning, competence and self-confidence. A number of strategies are used to provide the students with opportunities to practice critical reflection, which may include learning contracts, reflective journals, progress reports, group presentations, and oral presentations etc. However, in teaching a subject titled "Social Work Practice in Mental Health" at James Cook University, Australia, the author used "writing critically reflective blogs-" as a strategy to engage with both internal and external students to facilitate discussions. On observation, this provided a peer learning opportunity for the students to critically reflect on their learning, ask questions and to raise issues of concerns. In this presentation, the author will share his own experience of using critically reflective blogs on this subject and discusses the students' reflections on engaging in reflective blog writing. The presentation will also respond to some of the questions like- What was it like to be part of a group involved in blog writing? What has been the learning? What are some of the challenges and what can be done to make this a great leaning experience for the students?

Key words: Critical reflection, Reflective blogs, mental health