

Book Review

Title: *Culture and Disability: Providing Culturally Competent Services*

Author: John H. Stone, Ed.

Publisher: Sage, 2005

Paper, ISBN: 9870-7619-3084-6, 272 pp.

Cost: \$39.95

Reviewer: Katherine T. Ratliffe

Culture and Disability: Providing Culturally Competent Services is the 21st volume in Sage Publishing's *Multicultural Aspects of Counseling and Psychotherapy* series. Edited by John Stone, the book is targeted to service providers, particularly counselors and social workers who work with people with both congenital and acquired disabilities and their families. Three chapters are organized around general information about working with immigrants from diverse cultures, and seven chapters address specific information about population groups from China, Vietnam, Korea, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica.

One of a small number of books addressing culture and disability, Stone's edited book addresses issues around working with individuals with disabilities and their families from diverse cultures. The authors define cultural sensitivity and cultural competence, place culture in the larger context of immigration patterns and globalization trends, and provide specific suggestions for service providers. For example, in their chapter introducing the concept of disability service providers as cultural brokers, Mary Ann Jezewski and Paula Sotnik present helpful strategies to bridge gaps between different cultural perspectives.

Most of the book addresses the cultural perspectives of people from the seven nations listed above. Authors of each chapter consistently address historical immigration patterns, concepts of disability, roles of family, community and religion, time orientation, and communication; and all include specific suggestions for service providers. Individuals from the cultures addressed, or closely affiliated with them, wrote each chapter, giving the work credibility. The strength of the book lies in careful attention to aspects of each culture that are meaningful to disability service providers. Case studies in each chapter ground conceptual information in commonly encountered situations.

Although the book's detailed information is helpful, it addresses only selected immigrant groups, and does not discuss other cultures served by disability service providers such as those defined by gender, sexual identity, age, socioeconomic class, religion, and disability. The book also excludes other diverse ethnic groups in the United States such as Native Americans, African Americans, and people who immigrated from Europe, Eurasia, Oceania, Africa, or South America. The book, however, is scholarly, well written, provides comprehensive coverage of the

targeted populations, and could be a valuable resource for disability service providers working with the seven immigrant groups addressed.

Related Books

Lynch, E. W. & Hanson, M. J. (2004). *Developing Cross-Cultural Competence: A Guide for Working with Children and their Families*, 3rd edition. Baltimore, MD: Brookes.

Royeen, M. & Crabtree, J. L. (2005). *Culture in Rehabilitation: From Competency to Proficiency*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.