

Reflections on Group Leadership

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Title

Date

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Leadership is one of the most discussed concepts as people realize the importance of leadership in everyday life and professional development, but may fail to accomplish any meaningful results using this skill for their progress. The book by Gerald Corey *Theory and practice of group counseling* (2012) focuses on different phenomena occurring in groups of people. For instance, the second chapter of the book is dedicated to the concept of group leadership as one of the critical aspects of effective performance of the entire groups rather than its separate members. On the one hand, such a phenomenon may reflect the need for some guidance and structuring in a group where people need to work for specific purposes. Whether a leader is effective or not, a group leader must be effective to maintain connections with other group members and guide the team toward attaining their goal.

Group sessions seem to be one of the difficult tools in psychological assistance when a group of diverse people should be guided in achieving their goals. At the same time, all members of the group should recognize their counselor as a leader and let him/her lead. Every leader can be more or less active, in the group sessions, but the unique style is one of the important features. As stated by Corey (2012), developing a leadership style is one of the important things a leader should do in order to make the group members confident about the outcomes of their cooperation and active participation in group sessions. At the same time, Corey emphasized the essence of research in the practice of group work. It is clear that every activity should grow and develop over time to meet the need of people participating in it.

Ethical and professional issues related to group sessions is the main focus of the third chapter of Corey's (2012) book where the author intends to explain what is

right and what is wrong from the ethical point of view. On the one hand, ethical considerations should be put into the basis of all psychological techniques and methods. On the other hand, group sessions are more complicated in terms of ethics, because a leader needs to consider various values, motives, intentions, and purposes of group members. Another consideration is the rights of participants of group sessions. Every action of a group leader should be based on the ethical and moral values and principles of a leader; besides, actions should come as an integral part of the group's intentions.

A good leader is able to inspire other group members, while the malpractices are one of the side effects of using the group techniques inappropriately. Being an adequate member of society, a group leader would manage to find the best approach to every member of the group as well as to integrate his/her own values for the best outcomes of the group sessions. Cultural diversity is another important aspect of group sessions that Corey (2012) analyzes with regard to the diversity of values in a group that is culturally diverse. This means that globalization makes the work of group counselors more complicated and challenging. Nevertheless, it is important to remember about the ethics and moral values being common to most people.

Reference

Corey, G. (2012). *Theory and practice of group counseling* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA:
Brooks/Cole.