Abstract

This thesis examines the influence of the introduction of the match model on working with recipients of cash benefits in Denmark. The starting point of the thesis is an examination of some of the consequences of this introduction. The purpose is to have a closer look at the match model, to see if it is used as a working tool, and what influence it has on the solving of the task of getting unemployed people a job.

The approach will be philosophical hermeneutic in order to understand and interprete the included material, based on empiricism compared with theories about recognition and the interpretation of power. The gathering of the empiricism is done using qualitative interviews with job center employees and recipients of cash benefits. These interviews are then being analyzed by using Alex Honneths theory of recognition and Michel Foucaults theory of biopolitics.

The study shows how the match model, which was designed to give a more reliable picture of the dimension of the unemployed working capacity in Denmark, grows into a working tool designed to get the unemployed person a job. By using Foucaults theory of biopolitics the study shows how the idea of self-supporting has become a crucial focus of the job center employee. A focus which results in the evaluation that some social problems are best solved by self-supporting in spite of the disagreement and lack of understanding of the unemployed person. A disagreement which analyzed in proportion to Honneths theory of recognition shows that some unemployed persons feel offended and not considered a valid citizen. These sorts of experiences may give the unemployed person the experience of not getting the needed help, because the focus is more on where he ends than how he ends there.

The finish of the thesis argues for another method to divide the unemployed persons, a method, in which the possibility of getting a picture of the potential working capacity among unemployed in Denmark still exits. It is A method which cares about the own wishes of the unemployed person, and at the same time recognizes his need to believe in his own ability. This method still has a focus on self-supporting, but at the same time makes it possible for the unemployed person to feel that he is respected for his abilities and considered a valid citizen.