

What are the influence factors involved in the feeling of being ready to become a professional therapist, based on 5th year osteopaths student's experience in France?

By Erwann JACQUOT, MSc science of education, D.O
Research committee in osteopathic education of CIDO

Abstract-Context: in a period of applying decree in regards of osteopathic education, professionalism is crucial. During this osteopathic education, 5th year students are focusing on the treatment and management of their own patients in the clinical environment. While the osteopathic identity has been studied, the feeling of being ready to practice osteopathy is yet to be studied.

Objective: exploring and identifying the factors of believing to be fully qualified and ready to practice osteopathy for student ending the clinical education.

Method: The study employed a multicentric qualitative inductive design and approach through which three focus groups of 5th year-students were convened across three different French schools. The data were collected through semi-structured thematic guides. Data were analyzed from transcripts using framework analysis.

Results: the creation of a therapist status, the awareness of the knowledge needed and the feeling of legitimacy enables the impression of being ready to practice osteopathy. Those elements are linked to the student's motivation development.

Conclusion: our results show that the feeling to be ready to practice osteopathy follows the student motivational dynamic. This motivational dynamic is influenced by clinical supervision and reflective approach. Exploring and understanding the role of those factors could allow their integration into the osteopathic education.

Keywords: qualitative research, osteopathy, clinical reasoning, belief of « being ready to practice », motivational dynamic model, education, curriculum.