

A clinical look over the work of care assistants

Abstract : Well-known for being a particularly tiring job, the job of care assistant is one of the "awe-inspiring spectres" of occupational medicine. Occupational health doctors usually get acquainted with this issue through figures accounting for the health-work relation, but they keep stumbling across the problem of transformation actions. In this paper, the author deliberately adopts the opposite view. She describes the development of her thought and of her clinical practice in order to approach the work of these employees from a strictly clinical, non-hygienist, point of view. It is shown how this approach has been built on knowledge acquired during medical consultations and also relies on collective debates concerning the job of care assistants. It demonstrates what such a way of socialising may bring to the rules of work and to collective defence by opening some possibilities to build ties that can have positive effects on health.

Keywords : Care assistant, occupational health doctor, working environment activity, clinical approach, rules of work, care work.