

# **A Study on Social Workers' Practice of Working with Parents who are with Intellectual Disabilities and Reported whose Children were Neglected**

Hung Pin Hsu

Ph. D. Candidate, Department of Social Policy and Social Work,  
National Chi Nan University

## **Abstract**

As the rights of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) are valued, an increasing number of whom are getting married and having children. Due to the lack of social support to strengthen parent competence, parents with ID may be reported whose children were neglected. To focus on how social workers work with ID parent family, purposive sampling is used to interview six children and family social workers who have experience of working on child neglect cases where at least one parent with ID.

In the conclusion of this study, it points out that social workers get sense of conflict between parents and their children, and experiencing a power imbalance between themselves and parents. With different faith, some social workers worry about how to improve ID parents' parenting competence, while some emphasize to construct the function of ID parent family. There are four themes which are argued. First begin with the choice between parents' right and children's right. Then, how knowledge about ID affects social workers' working pattern. In addition, redefine parenting competence of parents with ID. Finally, the strategy of empowering ID parent family.

To sum up, the researcher proposes the following recommendations: 1. To establish the family service delivery system which fits family's need with social support perspective. 2. To provide social workers training of knowledge about ID,

they may benefit from it on working process. 3. Public Sector should encourage research concerning parents with ID, and build up the platform for social workers' practice.

**Keywords: Parents with intellectual disabilities, Parenting competence, Child neglect, Social work practice**