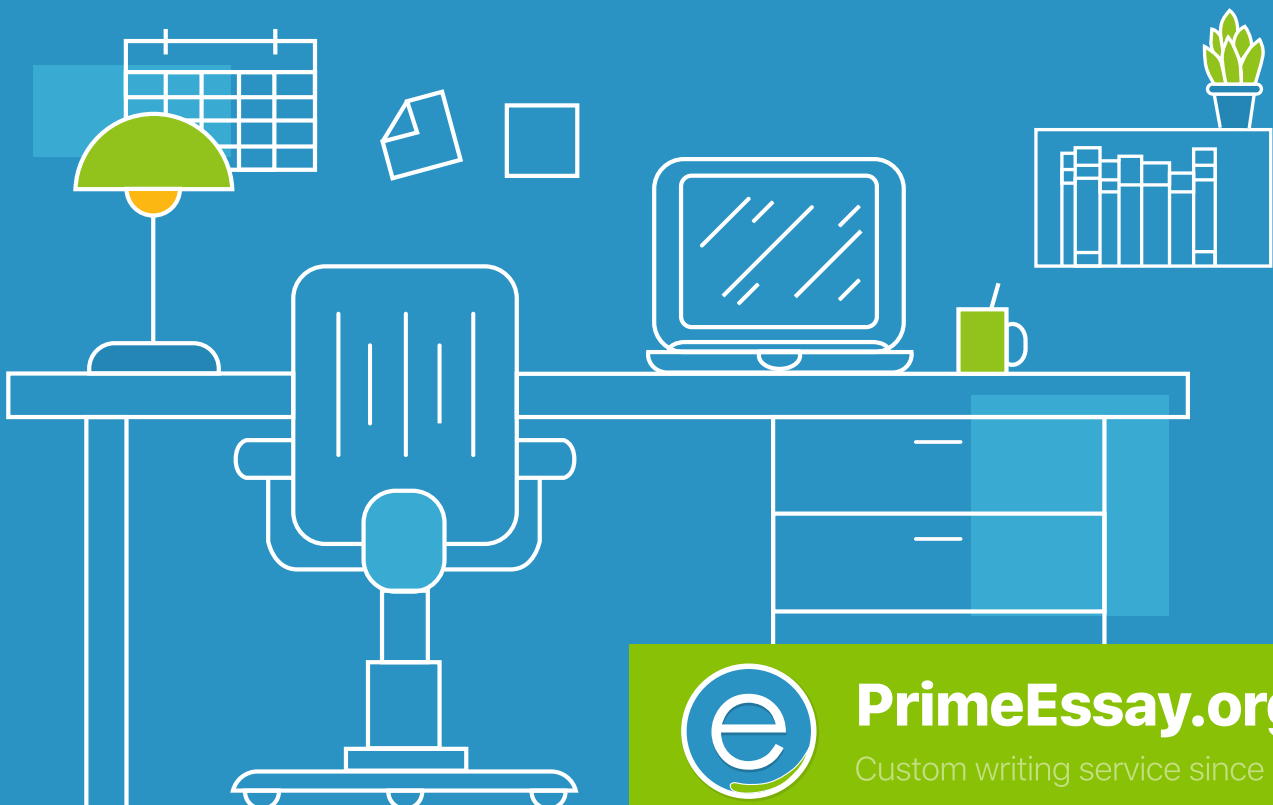


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Summary of the Key Ideas and Conclusions -- - — — -- +

In Bell-Tolliver & Wilkerson (2011) article about the use of spirituality and kinship in therapy within African American families, the two authors highlight that religion or spirituality and kinship are critical contributors to the effectiveness of therapy in African American family settings. Bell-Tolliver & Wilkerson (2011) seem to focus on the influence of connectedness and mutual support, induced in therapy as a result of the religion, spirituality and resources from the extended family. The authors were successful in making the reader find the connection between the religion or spirituality and kinships with the success of family therapy within the African American family setting. They also successfully outline the ways in which a therapist may utilise these strengths, by presenting the problems and possible solution to the families or individuals under therapy.

New Ideas Presented in the Paper - — — — -- +

From the findings, it is clear that the extended family network is critical in therapy in the sense that it provides resources, or social support to the clients, hence, enabling them to achieve the desired goal. In this context, Bell-Tolliver & Wilkerson (2011) outline financial and emotional support, as examples of the assistance, a client may benefit from the circumstances where they are financially or emotionally affected. In addition, the authors extensively discuss the observation that in certain scenarios, some extended family members do not engage in trends or behaviors that synchronise with their religion, norms and beliefs. As a result, spirituality and religion are emphasized as being incredibly strong



contributors to family therapy, relative to kinship, especially to the client. It is evident by the fact that kinship offers the basis of assistance in most scenarios.

Impact on Social Work Practice

The reader can conclude that the concept of incorporating religion or spirituality and the kinship influence in therapy, is highly effective in African American family setting. From the reader's perspective, these strengths are not only important to a social work practitioner, but also to the client families, since they serve as interventions in resolving presenting problems.



Reference -- - — — +

Bell-Tolliver, L., & Wilkerson, P. (2011). The Use of Spirituality and Kinship as Contributors to Successful Therapy Outcomes with African American Families. *Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought*, 30:48-70.

