

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT

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**AN INNOVATIVE MODEL OF SOCIALWORK EDUCATION AND PRACTICE**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Community challenges force human service agencies to collaborate in providing services. Such collaborations require practitioners to have skills not found in mainstream social work curricula. MSW program evolved through dialog with community leaders and resulted in a curriculum with a sole concentration of community partnerships. The new millennium has brought major changes, challenges, and hardships in human service delivery. With communities confronting rapidly changing demographics, the growing disparities between rich and poor, and reduced human services funding opportunities, human service agencies are no longer able to operate as independent or competitive entities. Rather, they must develop collaborative networks for service delivery in order to survive and thrive. Such collaborations lead to a re-examination of the skills and knowledge applied by professional social workers and, consequently, to a reconsideration of the curriculum in schools of social work. Against this backdrop, colleges and universities have sought to broaden their mission to become engaged participation in addressing community needs and issues. During the last decade, major changes have affected social work education and practice. The community participation concentration evolved in a nonlinear style. Lengthy deliberations between and among faculty and community representatives around philosophy, theory, mission, curriculum, the profession, and community needs, produced a philosophy that sought to educate students to advance the needs and capacities of the total community by promoting social and economic justice while maximizing human potential.*

**KEYWORDS**

socialwork education, human services.

**INTRODUCTION**

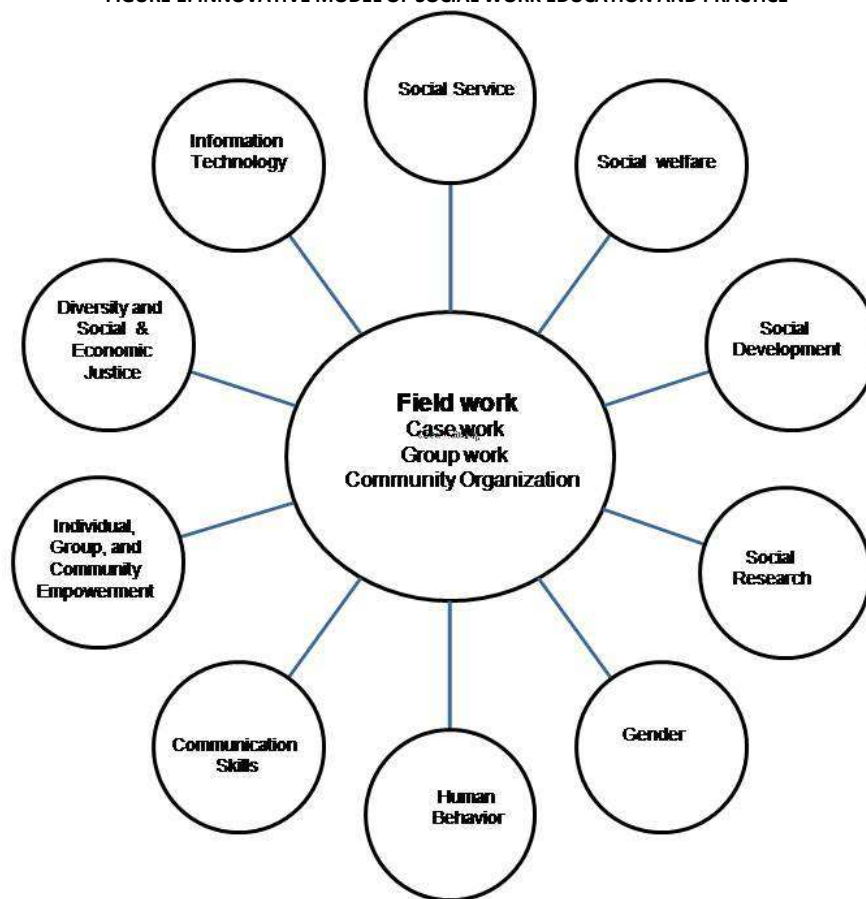
 Social problems like poverty, Corruption, Illiteracy, Gender Discrimination, Social Tensions, disaster and etc. have made social work education to play an important role in understanding and clarifying the results of social problems. New millennium has brought major changes, challenges, and hardships in human service delivery. With communities confronting rapidly the changing demographics, the growing disparities between rich and poor, and reduced human services funding opportunities, human service agencies are no longer able to operate as independent or competitive entities. Rather, they must develop collaborative networks for service delivery in order to survive and thrive. Such collaborations led to a re-examination of the skills and knowledge applied by professional social workers and, consequently, to a reconsideration of the curriculum in schools of social work particularly with respect to community practice. Against this backdrop, colleges and universities have sought to broaden their mission to become engaged participant in addressing community needs and issues. Hence dimension of social work is required social work for professionals to tackle social problems this can be achieved through social work education & practice. Social work education requires new levels of understanding and new levels of practice. If they are to be contributed for positive guidance.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To develop skills of community-based practice, knowledge and leadership skills in managing projects, and working with community groups and/or organizations in the educational system.
- To develop knowledge and skill and social work education and practice with social service, social welfare, social development, research, gender, human behavior, communication skills, individual, group and community empowerment, diversity and social & economic justice and information technology.



FIGURE 1: INNOVATIVE MODEL OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND PRACTICE



### SOCIAL SERVICE

A holistic approach of social service study brings social change, growth and development and finally it also provides remedial and preventive services to individual and community. Finally results in improving the quality of life.

### SOCIAL WELFARE

Signifies the total well-being of the individual and the basic economic necessities, high standard of health, decent living conditions, equal opportunities with high fellow-citizens, self respect, promote social security and social justice.

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development is nothing but elimination of all forms of violence in society. Liberalization and globalization of economy, which has introduced cut throat competition, are the first challenges. As a result of changes there is need for social reforms, social change and implementation of strict legislations and good governance in the society. Social work education curriculum should include in depth knowledge of social development issues like poverty, unemployment, health, drinking water, sanitation and urban governance, communal relations, local government and decentralization, child labour and social security, marginalized groups etc. So that social activists can carry out new policies in their respective field of study.

### RESEARCH

Research is a central focus of the program is to prepare practitioners with knowledge and skills grounded in sound research. The ability to use, evaluate and construct research is developed throughout the program. Community based research will helpful in throwing more light for future researchers and also academicians for taking new avenues in research perspectives.

### GENDER

Gender studies enhances students' ability to recognize and analyze the gendered structures that have shaped the lives of women and men of all races, classes, nationalities, religions, sexual orientation and abilities throughout history, it also helps students to develop what many modern professions identify as core competencies and it also emphasizes critical thinking.

### HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Knowledge of human behavior will allow practitioners to carry out their profession's mission to help individuals, families, and groups ethnically.

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Communication skills and personality development play a major role when working with colleagues and other social workers for making decisions and assessments. Interpersonal skills which enable the worker to engage meaningfully with the client lie at the heart of effective social work practice. Sound communication skills are more effective for the field of social work practice. All the practitioner of social work, working for children, old age and other needy individuals who are really in need of love, compassion and basic necessities of life. Hence social worker must develop habits for good and effective communication skills.



**INDIVIDUAL, GROUP AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

To understand the concept of empowerment, it is helpful to look at notions about power and powerlessness. Societies consist of individual groups of people with differing levels of power and control over resources. Both a negative and positive force, power is more than simple repression over or domination of groups. It is inherently about social interactions and the role of power within them, a notion of working on and through people.

**DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

Diversity and social & economic justice advances individuals growth, community well-being, and social justice. It promotes the vision, visibility, voice, and collaborative action needed for inclusive and effective social work practice.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Access to computer technology and the internet, as needed to communicate electronically and to seek information on the web for purposes of education, networking, resources is a central to the social work and it exchange information and sharing assessments with other professionals.

**FIELD WORK PRACTICE**

Field education is an important component of social work education. The field is the students to apply the social work knowledge base to practice. The field provides direct practice experiences with diverse client population guided by experience and maintain quality of field education program in a changing field practice following both years.

The first and second year field internship focus on the integrated knowledge and skills of field practice with individuals, families, groups and communities that will generate solutions to intervention, case work, group work, counseling skills, problem solving, meditation, advocacy, camps, community organization program, block placement and project work.

The social work education and field practice support additional learning, including meetings, teaching seminars, study groups and selected professional committees.

**CONCLUSION**

Finally it inculcates social work professional to develop their full potential, enrich their life and prevent dysfunction. The holistic focus of social work practice will vary from country to country and time to time depending on cultural historical and socio – economic conditions. It provides human and effective social services to the individuals family, community and the society. So that social functioning may be enhanced and quality of life improves. Social work practice has focus on meeting human needs and developing human potential and it also addresses the barriers inequities and injustice that are existing in society. The new model encompasses different objectives of social work in a holistic manner.

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