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TOPIC

AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENT PLACEMENT AND SUPERVISION IN KWANOBUHLE
UITENHAGE IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, SA



INTRODUCTION

- Student social work field placement is more like industrial gold purification that a student is expected to pass through a purification process. Field work experience undeniably, train and prepares the student social worker to be able to professionally provide social work services as required by the profession.
- During the placement period a student social worker experience first-hand social work practice with clients through the organisation interface. Unconditionally, student social workers are expected to apply their theoretical knowledge into practice during the fieldwork placement.
- This paper ventures into a critical analysis of social work student placement and supervision in the KwaNobuhle Uitenhage Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.



AIM OF THE STUDY

- The study aimed at giving a critical analysis on student social work field placement and supervision in KwaNobuhle Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.



OBJECTIVES

- To attain the aim of the study the researchers utilised the following objectives.
- To identify the University of Fort Hare procedural methods used in student social work field placement
- To evaluate the gaps in the institutional procedural methods followed when placing social work students
- To determine the significance of the educational context of field work placement and supervision



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- The importance of the study will assist in preparing adequately the students for a placement, so as to provide required and relevant services as required by the practice.
- The significance of the analysis will assist in improving the level and quality of student field placement and supervision.



BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

- The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASW), and the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) they have ethics, values and principles in practicing social work (International Federation of Social Workers, 2011).
- These ethics, values, and principles are actually imparted during the four year student training period.
- Therefore, it is a requirement for students to go for field placement in order to acquire and practice the ethics, values, and principles.



PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The failure to exhibit ethics, values, principles, critical analysis skills, and reflection skills by student social workers from placement generates controversy, and considerable confusion that need scholarly critical scrutiny. The profession in many times is rendered to a disrupt tapestry below the significant level of professional practice.
- Seemingly, the social work profession is reduced its relevance and certainly could risk being labelled a dysfunctional field of practice.
- The word “placement” as defined by the council means that a student should be placed in an organization or institution. However, if the student is asked to find the place to practice on him/herself it loses its meaning of “placement”.



PROBLEM STATEMENT CONTINUE

- Therefore, if the student is not placed in an organisation or institution in time as required by the institutional procedures, contextually it becomes questionable.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- This paper gained extensively from qualitative research method. Qualitatively, researchers interviewed purposively a sample of twelve participants.
- The benefits of using qualitative research method in this study were to gather information face to face for probing, produce in-depth information. Another advantage is to gather first hand information. The researchers were able to read the body language and feelings of the participants.
- However, the presence of the researchers might influence participants to give inaccurate information.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY CONTINUE

- The other disadvantage is that the information might be subjective.
- The lack of willingness to participate.



ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- This study was informed by the following ethical consideration:
- Avoidance of harm
- Confidentiality
- Informed consent
- Avoidance of plagiarism



PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

- The study find out that there are four universities in Eastern Cape that train social workers.
- All these universities have specific procedural methods when placing students for fieldwork placement. The fieldwork placement procedures are different from one institution to another.
- Participants indicated that the university placement procedures are informed by SACSSP.
- The study also find out that some of the universities secure placement for their students, on the other hand others let students find places to practice.



PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS CONTINUE

- This may review communication breakdown between the institution and the organisation the student is going to do placement.
- If there is communication breakdown between the institution and the organisation, the likelihood that the organisation might not fully train the student social workers with enough practical experience as expected.
- The study find out that student placement is very crucial in social work because students are imparted with ethics, values, principles, critical thinking skills, and reflective skills as required by council.



PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS CONTINUE

- Findings indicated that student placement enables student social workers to be flexible in their practice.
- Findings indicated that student placement improves students understanding in the language of the profession.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- All universities should secure “placement” for their students.
- There is a need for improvement in communication between the organisational supervisors and institutional supervisors.
- Institutional supervisors should increase the number of visits to placed students in an organization.
- The student placement manual should be user friendly.
- The student social workers should have a scientific laboratories.
- Social work students should have computer labs.



Thank you !!!!!!!!!



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