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## Re-examining social work training in Kenya: Integrating faith and Practice

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### Abstract

Africans are religious and associate situations that call for social workers' intervention with culture. Similarly, the profession of social work is rooted in religion since its history can be traced to Judeo-Christian beliefs and practices that valued humanitarian services and charity to vulnerable populations. Nevertheless, modern professional social work is not based on faith but on scientific knowledge that little appreciate the profession's religious heritage and inclination. Though the profession upholds a holistic approach to intervention which reckons religion as one of its dimensions, there is apprehension from a section of professionals that integration of faith and practice may lead to active evangelization and imposition of social workers' values on clients, contrary to the professional code of ethics that emphasizes; respect for human diversity, cultural values and belief systems and ethical considerations. Resultantly, little attention is paid to religion while training professional social workers, which leaves them ill-equipped in this regard. Hence, there is a need for promotion of professional training and practice that appreciates faith as an anchor, through which social work practice revolves in the interpretation of client needs and finding meaningful purpose for resilience in problem-solving. Therefore, this paper highlights the necessity of integrating faith and practice in social work training and intervention without compromising professional service quality.

**Keywords:** integration; faith and practice; religion; spirituality; social work training

