
Justice: Project Based Student Driven Collaboration Beyond Borders

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Abstract

The mission of the social work profession is grounded in meeting the needs of others and empowering them to be the best version of themselves. This mission aligns deeply with the principles of the Ubuntu philosophy, its values, beliefs, and the customs that dictate the behavior of those who practice it. The Ubuntu concept of "I am because we are" is at the heart of social work practice, as the confidence and competence to serve others can only be possible if we first know and acknowledging who we are, and how we are interconnected with others. Our day call as social work educators is to become innovators that influence transformational changes in students, as they learn to engage, assess, and intervene with other humans by creating experiential learning opportunities beyond the classroom. We will discuss how Ubuntu philosophy can assist students to engage in online group work research while being socialized to social work practice as they simultaneously enhance macro practice skills and knowledge beyond their borders. Participants will have an opportunity to brainstorm with presenters and offer feedback on how to expand online group work.

Keywords: social justice, Ubuntu philosophy, transformational changes