
African social work education and training: Challenges and opportunities for social work

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Abstract

Social work education and field practice are essential in helping the social work profession at its mission of lifting individuals, families, groups, and communities from poverty and oppression. Social work education plays a vital role in helping students acquire essential knowledge and skills that would allow them to practice social work effectively in the practice areas of interest. Delivery and evaluation of social work education in African social work education and training on this ground is paramount. On reviewing curricula of several social work departments in some of the Sub-Saharan African universities' websites, it was found that there exist few explicit or clear curricula depicting a structured social work education curriculum. The review reveals a need for the Association of School of Social Work in Africa to mobilize resources to implement a unified social work education and field practice system to help students achieve their learning and practice goals which would translate to providing a quality social work education and training. Therefore, this proposed conference presentation calls for consistency in the delivery and implementation of social work education and training to minimize opportunities for student failure, to enhance and ensure the future of social work as a profession. In this light, this presentation will discuss the current landscape of social work education from publicly available materials, the challenges facing the African social work departments in designing explicit/implicit and measurable curricula, and the field education processes, monitoring, and supervision to facilitate competent field learning and practice skills.

Keywords: social work education, field practice, Africa, education and training

