
Field Education in Social Work Education- Expected outcomes: community impact versus student impact

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Abstract

Social work is not an evidence-based profession, but integrating theory and practice is one of the fundamental elements that make social work one of the professions that covers the basics. In social work education, students are subjected to quality theory and quite extensive practice. The latter takes the form of field practice or work integrated learning, previously known as internship. This prepares students for their role as fully qualified practitioners whose knowledge, attitude and skill are tested through field practice to the benefit of the clients. However, field practice has been compounded by COVID-19 and its impact. This paper will highlight the relationship between theory and practice, the challenges of field practice as well as the benefit to both the students and institution and the community at large.

Keywords: field education, social work education, community vs students impact

