

The Core Competences of Professional Community Workers: An Explorative Research of Taiwan

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Abstract

Community work is categorized as one of three main professional methods of social work. In the history of community work development, community work has not developed gradually as well as case work and group work in 70s, it is underdeveloped. Till 90s, facing the attacking from economic globalization, governments are making efforts to help the underdeveloped and downgrade communities by community work. Community work gets much attention in this decade. The further focuses are what the core competences are and whether professional community work education could provide full training for community social workers in their practical field. To care for the focus above, this research explores what the core competences should be in the practical field in Taiwan. By theoretical sampling, four professional community workers are interviewed to explore what the core competency they take in their profession service. Based on interviewees' opinion, the findings are as follows: 1. Seven core competences which include 'understanding community and building relationship', 'assessment', 'organizing', 'resources collecting and managing', 'administration', 'introspecting and learning' are generalized and highlighted. 2. 'Professional value and attitude', 'practical skills' and 'systematic course' are highlighted by interviewees for professional education. Bases

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on research findings, several professional education issues are discussed in this papaper.

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