

Community Work Forum: On Practical Training and Qualifications

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Abstract

Community work and community development are two different areas of professional working methods and policy program. But nowadays community work depends on community development because of the unclear professional development and the long-standing historical factors of community development policy. In particular, various departments of the Taiwan Government, both local and central, have opened up the issue of the professionalization of community workers

and community leaders empowerment by training, some entitled the name of community construction worker and community planners.

What is the professional significance of community work-related personnel? Is it a professional degree? Is it a practitioner license? Or the front-end connotation of the license, that is, the core competence and function of the so-called community development work? Or advanced functions on the community site? These topics cover a wide range of community workers pathways and different concerns. Teaching curriculum with required core competence for practitioners is the most traditional meaning of professionalization. But for those who are already in community site, what does the professional connotation of these experienced or on-job workers?

In the process of professionalization of social workers, these issues are discussed in a similar way. The issues of professionalization have been fully discussed, communicated, clarified, dialogued, and then gradually shaped into a social consensus, and finally reached to the social workers' certificate. Only when the professional license has earned its social recognition, issues like the extended professional protection and social work ability standards were settled down. Take the career pathway development of social workers in Taiwan as reference, the Taiwan Society for Community Work and Community Studies start up this forum and invited respectful scholars to participate in this frontier discussion. In this forum, related issues and conditions of community work in Taiwan have been discussed, which are expected to lead to more discussions and studies.

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