

A Preliminary Investigation on the Roles of Community Workers from the Perspective of Variation of Contemporary Community

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Abstract

The work profession of community-based organizations is recognized as a social work intervention method later than that of casework and group work is because its development is later. With the change of time, space and environmental background, the roles of social workers in Taiwan in the operating field of social work have gradually declined. In addition to the variation of external forms of community, there are also variations in the development of social work profession. According to the review on J. Rothman's classification of social work into three major models, "local development," "social project" and "social action" in 1968, a broader concept of community is adopted in western countries, and the roles of community workers are more comprehensive and diversified. On the contrary, the roles of community workers in Taiwan are relatively narrow. The halo of profession as social workers has also gradually faded in the contemporary community with a significant variation in forms. First, in the model of "local development" where the importance is attached to the role as "facilitators," the luster of community workers is taken away by many rising self-proclaimed community experts and community builders. Second, in the model of "social project" where the importance is attached to the role as "professionals," community workers are unable to reflect and analyze social issues, lack the professional competence to lead and operate bureaucratic organizations and hence become the supporting role of aftermath. Last, in the model of "social action" where the importance is attached to the role as "advocators" and "actors"

paying attention to the disadvantaged groups and questioning the unfairness of social system, community workers seem to be “incorporated” into specific units under the trend of privatization and outsourcing of public sectors. They are even “deconstructed” by atypical social workers. Social workers continue the professional mission and commitment to helping people and take a different way of thinking and different responses to avoid the stagnation of professional competence and the disappearance of professional roles. Based on the community work models proposed by Rothman, this study attempts to review the roles and functions of community workers in the profession of social work and adjust and restore their professional standard and function to maintain the mechanism for profession survival by inspecting the practical professional competence,.

Keywords: Vibration of Community, Community Work Model, Community Worker