

# **The Analysis for Work Roles of community workers and community adult educators in the context of community development**

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## **Abstract**

In the context of domestic community development, the theory and practice of "community work" and "community adult education" still lack integrated dialogue and discussion. Recently, core competencies of professional community workers have received more attention. However, the discourse in their work roles still needs an integrative view through the analysis of foreign literature and practice. This paper analyzes the literature to explore conception and actions of community work and community adult education for the professional community work roles and the possibility of mutual integration. Besides, core competences for professional community workers were speculated. Study found that the work roles of community workers and community educators based on the work characteristics can be compared and divided into three categories, including typology model, stages of community development process, and community cooperation networks. A notable literature in adult education on the Liverpool Education Priority Area (EPA) project and its experience provided a reflection on the paradigm of community work roles. Therefore, this study suggests that community adult educators should move toward a paradigm shift, including dynamic thinking of expert intervention and a contingency approach in the work roles through community development processes. In addition, professional community workers should have the common perspective in a community-based, people-centered, and learning-centered vision.

**Keywords:** Community workers, Community adult educators, Community development, Work roles