

SWK 2750

Notes Unit IV

Community work is often referred to as “community organization,” and is at the macro level of practice. Community work is based upon the principle that communities can develop the capacity to solve their own problems.

What is the connection between “risk” in a community and housing options?

Transportation and communities

- when transportation is missing communities are not connected to resources and supports
- impact seen in employment and taxes

Homelessness

- lacking fixed and adequate nighttime residence
- mental and physical mental health issues
- community based services

Skills needed to be effective in community development:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| -social research | -administration |
| -planning | -committee operation |
| -coordination | -advocacy |
| -organization | |
| -financing | |

Roles of a social worker in community development:

- teacher
- catalyst
- facilitator
- broker
- enabler
- advocate

Social work in a rural setting

Potential problems in rural areas:

- Access to services
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of opportunities
- Poverty

A good rural social worker must:

- Understand the culture
- Gain trust
- Collaborate
- Participate
- Support

Pros and Cons of rural social work:

- +/- Independence
- +/- Advancement
- +/- Rewards
- +/- Recognition

A generalist social worker is well suited for rural social work because of the wide range of services that can be offered.

Referred to as occupational or industrial social work, thus type of practice involves focus on the needs of individuals within the workplace.

*This is a growing area of employment.

Workforce changes:

- More people work from home
- Single-parents
- Recognition of wage gaps
- Decrease in workforce age
- Impact of global markets
- Types of jobs available
- Underemployment and Unemployment

Attitudes and values toward work are also changing in the U.S. culture:

“New breed worker”

“Downshifting”

Implications for employees and their families:

- “spillover effect”
- hazards
- harassment
- balance
- health issues

Implications for employers and economy:

- cost of lost productivity
- training
- availability of services

Whose responsibility is it to address work and family problems?

Employee Assistance Programs:

- On-site
- Contract work
- Address wide array of problems

Other social work positions within industrial settings:

- Consulting
- Strengthening relationships
- Advocacy
- Training

Roles for industrial social work include:

- casework
- group work
- community organization
- interviewing
- advocacy
- research

Military Social Work

Army, Navy, Air Force, contractors

Potential problems:

- Deployment
- Re-entry
- Health and mental health concerns
- Substance Use
- Suicide prevention
- Housing and transportation

Ethical concerns

- Confidentiality
- Self-determination
- Hierarchy issues
- Boundaries
- Communication barriers

Roles and skills needed for Military Social Workers

- communication
- evaluation
- brokering services
- advocacy
- interdisciplinary team work
- policy work
- program development
- research
- community needs and support

Environmentalism and Social Work

Sustainability

- acknowledging the finite resources
- prioritizing needs of the poor
- connection to social justice
- ecological social welfare

Environmental concerns include:

- Overpopulation
- Pollution
- Climate change
- Environmental disasters
- Human made disasters

Social Work roles in the area of environmentalism

- community development
- economic and social justice
- advocacy
- support
- policy and research