

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK

by LEONORA SERAFICA DE GUZMAN · Language: EN

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Overview

This book serves as a foundational text for students and practitioners entering the field of social work. It systematically introduces the core concepts, historical evolution, and philosophical underpinnings that define social work as a profession. De Guzman emphasizes the holistic nature of social work, detailing its commitment to social justice, human rights, and the empowerment of individuals, families, groups, and communities. The text meticulously outlines the values, ethics, and principles that guide social work practice, ensuring readers grasp the moral and professional responsibilities inherent in the discipline.

Beyond theoretical frameworks, the book delves into the practical aspects of social work, exploring various methods such as casework, group work, and community organization. It also examines the diverse fields of practice, including child welfare, medical social work, mental health, and poverty alleviation, often with a focus on the Philippine context. By integrating theoretical knowledge with practical applications, De Guzman equips aspiring social workers with a comprehensive understanding of their future roles and the societal challenges they are poised to address. The book is crucial for establishing a strong ethical and professional foundation for those dedicated to promoting well-being and advocating for vulnerable populations.

Key Takeaways

- Understand the historical evolution of social work to appreciate its current form and future direction.
- Internalize the core values and ethical principles that are non-negotiable in professional social work practice.
- Recognize the interconnectedness of individual well-being and broader societal structures in addressing human needs.
- Develop a holistic perspective, applying various methods like casework, group work, and community organization as appropriate.
- Commit to continuous learning and advocacy to effectively address emerging social issues and promote social justice.
- Appreciate the importance of cultural sensitivity and context-specific approaches in diverse practice settings.

Chapter Summaries

The Nature and Scope of Social Work

This chapter defines social work as a profession, outlining its goals, functions, and unique contributions to society. It differentiates social work from other helping professions and establishes its broad scope in addressing human needs and social problems.

Historical Development of Social Work

Explores the origins and evolution of social work, tracing its roots from early charitable efforts to its emergence as a professional discipline. It highlights key historical movements, figures, and legislative changes that shaped the field.

Values, Ethics, and Principles of Social Work

Focuses on the foundational ethical framework guiding social work practice. It discusses core values such as human dignity, social justice, service, integrity, and competence, and their application in ethical decision-making.

Theoretical Foundations of Social Work

Introduces various theoretical perspectives and models that inform social work practice, including systems theory, ecological perspective, and strengths-based approaches. It explains how these theories guide assessment and intervention strategies.

Methods of Social Work Practice

Details the primary intervention methods used by social workers: casework (individual and family), group work, and community organization. It describes the principles, processes, and applications of each method in different contexts.

Fields of Social Work Practice

Examines the diverse settings where social workers are employed, such as child welfare, medical social work, mental health, corrections, schools, and community development. It outlines the specific roles and challenges in each field.

The Social Worker as a Professional

Discusses the professional identity of social workers, including roles, responsibilities, and the importance of professional development, supervision, and self-care. It emphasizes accountability and adherence to professional standards.

Challenges and Future Directions in Social Work

Addresses contemporary issues facing the social work profession, such as globalization, technological advancements, and evolving social problems. It explores future trends and the

ongoing need for advocacy and adaptation.

Themes

- Social Justice
- Human Empowerment
- Ethical Practice
- Community Development
- Holistic Well-being
- Advocacy

Frequently Asked Questions

What is INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK about?

This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the social work profession, covering its history, philosophy, values, and ethical principles. It details various methods of practice, fields of application, and the professional roles of social workers, often with a focus on the Philippine context.

Is INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK worth reading?

Yes, it is highly recommended for anyone pursuing a career in social work or seeking to understand the profession's foundations. It offers a structured and thorough overview, essential for building a strong theoretical and ethical base for practice.

How does INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK end?

Spoiler: The book concludes by discussing contemporary challenges and future directions for the social work profession. It emphasizes the ongoing need for adaptation, advocacy, and professional development to address evolving social problems and promote human well-being effectively.

Who should read INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK?

This book is primarily intended for social work students, aspiring social workers, and educators in the field. It is also valuable for professionals in related disciplines and anyone interested in understanding the role of social work in society.

How long does it take to read INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK?

Given its nature as an academic textbook, reading time can vary. A realistic estimate for a thorough read, including reflection and review, would be approximately 8 to 12 hours, depending on the reader's pace and engagement.