

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN BOTSWANA

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ABSTRACT

Social work education is crucial in the development of professionals who are equipped to serve diverse populations and implement varying programmes. It is meant to the graduates' competence in the socio-economic environment. In particular, it should ensure that social workers are endowed with adequate competencies in disaster risk reduction and the training of individuals, groups, and communities in resilience to disasters. The aim of this paper is to establish whether students acquire knowledge and skills in disaster risk management while at the university. It was found that the possibility is high that they would graduate without adequate knowledge on the subject with regard to related protocols, tools, and instruments. It is therefore, crucial that social work education deliberately incorporates disaster risk reduction in its curriculum in Botswana. A total of 54 third year social work students participated in the study and they confirmed their ignorance of the frameworks and UN related disaster protocols.

Keywords: Social Work, Disaster, and Disaster Risk Reduction.