

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS IN SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the nature of engagement and tasks of social work students placed in social welfare agencies. Specifically, this study aims to measure the level of competencies of social work students in terms of practice of the primary methods of social work, supervisors' feedback mechanisms on students' performance, nature of learning environment provided by the social welfare agencies, and faculty supervisors' learning strategies. Data were gathered by using a descriptive-evaluative study by utilizing mixed approaches like employed data source triangulation of survey questionnaires, focal group discussion, and field observation. All data sets were analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis for qualitative data. A total of 285 students of the College of Social Work and Development, Western Mindanao State University, 9 agency supervisors, 11 faculty supervisors and the 7 agency heads as key informants were placed in social welfare agencies for the SY 2017-2018. Findings revealed that the nature of students' engagements in social welfare agencies, are dependent on the scope of the Field Instruction Program with prevailing tasks along data gathering and problem definition. Social Work Practice adheres to the case management model. Predominant and effective feedback mechanism in casework and groupwork is group supervision while monitoring and evaluation for community organization though for agency supervisors, dialogue is effective for casework. The social welfare agencies as a learning environment affords students activities in consonance with the Field Instruction Program Objectives under the supervision of an agency social worker, adheres to agency policies, procedures and Memorandum of Agreement. Faculty learning strategies and feedback mechanism in teaching is compliant with the Bachelor of Science in Social Work Outcome-based Education Program as stipulated in the CHED, CMO 39 series of 2017.

Keywords: Curricular competencies, Feedback Mechanisms, Agency Supervisors, Social Work Methods, Social Welfare Agencies