

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS FROM MSW COURSE: A CASE STUDY OF THE MSW ASPIRANTS

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ABSTRACT

Each year during admissions a huge line of aspirants can be seen for MSW course. More number of applications are received by MSW department. Whenever the author used to witness this, there was a question rising in mind, are they really MSW aspirants of social work course or is there any other intension like career opportunities. In that case what is happening is appreciable or not. And the author decided to make a study on MSW aspirants about their expectations. Universities are having their own rules and regulations to select the candidates. The criteria for selection checks the general knowledge, their percentages etc. However these doesn't really check their real intension or interest in the social work field. Similarly the aspirants come with some expectations and join, then the real intensions are met according to their expectations or not. A reality check has to be done. Hence the author made a detailed study on the intensions and expectations of MSW aspirants.

KEYWORDS: Ameliorate, Human Resource, Psychosocial

INTRODUCTION

Today the society is becoming more and more complex in its working. The prime slogan of today's world is the survival of the fittest. This has increased the number of helpless, deprived and disadvantaged. Here is role of social work comes into play. Social work utilize resources to short out the problems of such people and try to ameliorate and alleviate their pain and suffering. Social workers try to prevent social problems caused by poverty, unemployment, inadequate health and education facility, alcoholism, drugs abuse. They also try to improve the life of certain disadvantaged like disabled, old aged, orphan and women.

The days are gone when social work was done for philanthropic purpose. But now it has become a professional course offered by institutes like TISS, IRMA and Delhi School of Social Work keeping in eyes the proliferation of NGOs in every nooks and corner of the country. Many and many students now prefer social work courses and get wide varieties of opportunities. This course which is important from career prospects creates Human Resource to deal with the social problems.

There are ample job opportunities for MSW degree holders in both the government as well as non-governmental sectors. Opportunity in the governmental sector is mainly in the community development projects pertaining to health, education, rural development, child, woman and tribal welfare etc. Work in NGOs' can be specific to either urban or rural area. Postgraduates in Social Work also have job opportunities in the industrial and corporate sector. Students opting social work as career may find job in child welfare and family service agencies for providing mental, health, medical, educational and correctional services. Some MSW degree holders can prefer to be self-employed by establishing their own NGOs. Globalization has widened the scope of employment for student opting for social work as their career. They may choose to join international NGOs like Amnesty International, Oxfam and Green Peace etc. New problems relating to environment

has further forced social work to transgress its traditional limit. Now many NGOs and government agencies are working for environmental protection and conservation where people from social work background can find a good job.

A case study based research will be done with the students who seek admission to MSW course during their admission on the above mentioned basis to find out the real reasons for opting social work course.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Karnataka University Dharwad, dept. of social work is having its vision like, it envisions to provide to the society competent and committed social work practitioners, who would devote themselves for the cause of promoting social justice and empowerment of all and thus contribute to the goal of human race of making this place worth living.

Anupam Hazra in her article current prospects of social work in India says that Social work grew out of humanitarian and democratic ideals, and its values are based on respect for the equality, worth, and dignity of all people. Since its beginnings over a century ago, social work practice has focused on meeting human needs and developing human potential. Human rights and social justice serve as the motivation and justification for social work action. In solidarity with those who are disadvantaged, the profession strives to alleviate poverty and to liberate vulnerable and oppressed people in order to promote social inclusion. Social work profession addresses the barriers, inequities and injustices that exist in society. Its mission is to help people to develop their full potential, enrich their lives, and prevent dysfunction. Professional social work is focused on problem solving and change. As such, social workers are change agents in society and in the lives of the individuals, families and communities they serve.

It responds to crises and emergencies as well as to everyday personal and social problems. Social work utilizes a variety of skills, techniques, and activities consistent with its holistic focus on persons and their environments. Social work interventions range from primarily person-focused psychosocial processes to involvement in social policy, planning and development. These include counseling, clinical social, social work, group work, social pedagogical work, and family treatment and therapy as well as efforts to help people obtain services and resources in the community. Interventions also include agency administration, community organization and engaging in social and political action to impact social policy and economic development. The holistic focus of social work is universal, but the priorities of social work practice will vary from country to country and from time to time depending on cultural, historical, and socio-economic conditions.

Social workers attempt to relieve and prevent hardship and suffering. They have a responsibility to help individuals, families, groups and communities through the provision and operation of appropriate services and by contributing to social planning. They work with, on behalf of, or in the interests of people to enable them to deal with personal and social difficulties and obtain essential resources and services. Their work may include, but is not limited to, interpersonal practice, group work, community work, social development, social action, policy development, research, social work education and supervisory and managerial functions in these fields. The field of practice for professional Social Worker is expanding day by day.

Emmanuel Janagan Johnson, Kernita-Rose Bailey and Jacqueline Padmore writes that Education is one of the dominant sectors of the economy in terms of enrolment of students in Trinidad and Tobago and India. The practicum is an integral part of many professional courses in higher education especially in social work, and is manifest in several different forms depending on the area, such as field experience, case work, group work, community organization, block placement and clinical practicum.

Seek education, education and career oriented website writes Social work is often called the "helping profession". As a social worker, you help people meet their basic needs. This includes finding work and forming healthy and stable family relationships. In addition, social workers may help clients avoid drugs and alcohol or cope with physical or mental disabilities. As a social worker, you use your organizational and research skills to help people have the best life they can, even with obstacles in their way.

With a degree in social work, you can work as a case manager, counselor, advocate, or policy analyst. You can work for private groups, government agencies, or substance abuse centers. You can also work for prisons, juvenile correctional homes, schools, or mental health clinics. Depending on your interests, you can focus your work on children, adults, older people, or families. You can also concentrate on helping people with drug or alcohol abuse problems or people with mental illnesses.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the growing number of youths showing interest towards social work course.
- To extend a deep check on the selection of the course.
- To find out the knowledge regarding MSW course before admission.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: Exploratory research design was followed in the present research. It is explorative in nature because there are no sufficient studies available to reach a particular concept.

Universe and Sample of the Study: The scope of the study extends to all youth (female) who are admission seekers to MSW course in Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur.

The selection of the sample was confined to the selected candidates for the course.

Analysis Results

Majority (85.71%) of the respondents were from 21 to 24 years old and 5 (14.28%) respondents were of 25 years and above. This means at this age also female admission seekers for MSW are there. It shows the demand for the course.

When it comes to the reason for applying for MSW course 28 (80%) respondents out of 35 said that they applied for this course because their parents/siblings/teacher suggested. 5 (14.28%) respondents opted the course by realizing the scope of the course. And hardly for 2 (5.71%) respondents it was their own decision and interest in the course. The finding clearly indicates that the selection of the course is purely not by choice.

Nearly (77.14%) respondents said they are aware of what MSW course is. Whereas (22.85%) respondents do not know what the course is all about. Without even knowing what the course includes, without even collecting the details about the course such a large number of respondents had approached the University.

Around 9(25.71%) of the respondents revealed that they didn't know about the field work in course and a larger chunk 26(74.28%) knew about it. 6 (17.14%) respondents out of the total said they don't like to go for field work. (80%) respondents are aware of the specializations in the social work course. Very few respondents (20%) were not aware of the specializations during the time of admission.

In that also (68.57%) respondents knew what are the specializations available in the University. And a small number of respondents (31.42%) knew that the University is having generic course. (85.71%) respondents are much sure

that the course helps them to get Govt. as well as NGO jobs in a large chunk. In their opinion MSW compared to other courses provides more job opportunities and more job security. (14.29%) of the respondents say that the course also helps for self sustenance by empowering them for own work.

When it came to the different activities students expect in the classroom 14 respondents (40%) expectation was field work. Whereas 18 (51.43%) respondents said it should include class room activities, field work, extracurricular activities and assignments. This shows that a large number of respondents are aware about the course.

About what the respondents aim at the end of the course, (25.71%) respondents said that they want to learn about the society and serve. Whereas (74.29%) of the respondents said they are aiming at securing good marks in-order to get a good job.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The study of social work is for committed individuals who are passionate about caring for people, from infants to the elderly, helping them overcome life's most difficult challenges.

By studying Social Work one has to develop his/her knowledge of social issues, policy and problems; law; psychology; human behavior and relationships; cross-cultural awareness; community and family support services and how our expertise can be applied in practice. Vitally, we will also have to enhance our skills base – skills that will be of great interest to potential employers within and outside of the social work profession.

Suggestions

- The quality and the discipline of the course should be improved in such a way that Social Work should not be counted in any other common courses.
- During the selection of the candidates for the course genuine interest of the students should tested/checked.
- Proper orientation about the course should be done in the beginning of the course itself to make the selected candidates check their interest in the course once again.
- No. of intake should be restricted in the Universities and colleges to maintain the quality.

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