

# Discussion on the Universalization of Social Work Education

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Abstract: With the development of the times and the continuous reform and deepening of education in China, it has become a new trend to introduce general education into social work education. The general education of social education can not only improve the basic quality of social workers and enhance their adaptability at work, but also help to solve the difficulties they encounter in social life. In recent years, with the popularization of the concept of general education, many colleges and universities also began to learn from the concept of general education to carry out general education for college students, which is of great significance to the general development of social work education. This paper studies and discusses the universalization of social work education.

Keywords: Social Work Education; General Knowledge; Discussion

#### 1. Introduction

The universalization of social work education is a major innovation of China's social work education, which is more in line with the requirements of modern education and has an obvious effect on solving the problems of China's current social work education. For example, encouraging college students to participate more in social practice can not only enrich students' own experience, but also contribute to the society and enhance students' sense of social responsibility. However, it is also challenging to combine general education with social work education. Therefore, all parties need to work together to effectively combine the two, which is of great significance to both college students and social workers.

## 2. The meaning and characteristics of general education

# 2.1 The meaning of general education

When it comes to general education, there is no accurate concept so far. It originated from western modern education and is related to liberal education (Boya Education) proposed in the Renaissance. Earlier, an educator clarified the concept of free education. In his eyes, free education is different from traditional education, that is, people should not only master professional knowledge, but also take into account natural science knowledge and humanities knowledge, or people should have the ability to adapt to various social roles at every stage. In China, general education has also been interpreted in ancient education. For example, the early "600 million" thought of confucianism is similar to or even more extensive than today's morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor. Although there is no accurate definition of general education since ancient times, the essence of general education is the same in every era, that is, general education requires students to have professional theoretical

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knowledge, social service consciousness and social responsibility, and pay attention to their all—round and coordinated development.

#### 2. 2 Characteristics of general education

Through the above research on the meaning of general education, we can draw the following two characteristics of general education. First, general education does not only focus on professional knowledge. Its object is all students. It is not its real educational purpose that students can find a good job after graduation. The real goal of general education is to cultivate people with professional academic knowledge and knowledge in all aspects of life and promote their all—round and healthy development. Second, general education is scientific, and its essence is to cultivate omnipotent people, that is, such people should not only have their own thinking ability and their own discrimination ability, so as to liberate their personal thoughts; We should also think from the perspective of social workers, identify things, and stimulate our own potential, so as to give full play to our own value, cultivate social service awareness and contribute to social development.

# 3. The significance of general education in social work education

What is social work? The term "social work" comes from Britain, America and other western developed countries. It meets the needs of modern industrial development. In recent years, it has gradually developed in China. As a major, social work has great applicability. We can explain the significance of general education of social work from the following two aspects.

First, the object of social work is social vulnerable groups. In practical work, social workers often have to access many aspects of service objects. Therefore, a social worker should not only have the ability to solve his own problems, but also have the strength to solve various difficulties in his environment. Therefore, an excellent social worker must be a general talent with strong comprehensive ability, not a professional who can only solve a single problem. The lack of general talents is the cause of general education in social work education.

Second, in terms of the relationship between social work and other aspects, social work should not only deal with work problems, but also solve a series of other social problems such as interpersonal relations, so it will also be connected with other disciplines, such as social psychology, finance, natural science, etc. From the perspective of culture, social workers should understand the subtle influence of culture on people; From the perspective of sociology, social workers should understand their own role and status in the group; From the perspective of psychology, social workers should understand the important role of consciousness and their ownpotential; From the perspective of politics, social workers should understand the role of power; From the perspective of finance, social workers should understand the relationship between commodities and the relationship between policies and economic market. With this knowledge, social workers can consider problems from multiple angles when they encounter difficulties in their work, and it is easier to comprehensively use this knowledge to solve problems.

To sum up, general education is diversified and more complex, which is a supplement to the shortcomings of professional education in society. However, this does not mean that we do not need professional knowledge in social work. In the current survival of the fittest working environment, if a person does not have his own values, his own unique skills and strong professional knowledge, he will not be able to work efficiently, help the group, and will be eliminated. In social work, it is more a complex community between people and between people and groups. When work together, we will inevitably encounter many challenges. These challenges may be the lack of personal expertise of social workers or the lack of unity of social groups. For example, in real social practice, social workers are easy to produce some negative and unprofessional emotions. At this time, general education will play a role, and social workers will consider it from another angle, so as to effectively solve emotional problems.

## 4. General content of social work education

The development of general education in China is not as early as that in western countries, but as a new trend in recent years. However, at present, many universities still take general education as the auxiliary content

 of teaching and the cultivation of professional knowledge as the main teaching content. This teaching model has no substantive effect on students' development, does not meet the requirements of general education for students' all—round development, and does not meet the requirements of social workers' attitude towards life, their own moral quality and problem—solving ability. Therefore, we should make general education supplement the deficiencies in professional development, and introduce general education into social work education. In social work education, the content of general education has the following three aspects.

# 4.1 Complex cultural knowledge

As a large historical country with more than 5000 years of cultural heritage and 56 nationalities, China is characterized by brilliant culture and colorful customs. In such a complex social environment, how to carry out social work education is a big problem. If we want students to understand and learn the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, to broaden students' cultural vision and cultivate students' thinking ability, we must carry out general education including humanities, natural sciences, psychology, economics and political science.

#### 4. 2 The tools needed to learn knowledge and the methodology needed to solve problems

We should carry out discipline education such as writing, applied statistics, computer and science, literature review and so on to improve students' writing, data analysis, computer mastery and information processing ability. This is also the basic ability required by scientific and technological progress and modern life.

# 4.3 Practical application of knowledge

It mainly refers to the knowledge involved when social workers participate in social practice and investigation. Mastering this knowledge can make social workers better combine theory with practice and enhance their ability to solve problems. As a social worker, we must conduct a real investigation on the problems encountered at work, collecting data, sorting out data, and analyzing data in combination with reality, so as to restore the truth of the matter, which requiresprofessional methods, that is, the practical application of knowledge.

#### 5. Conclusion

The purpose of education is to educate people. Stimulating people's potential is the essence of education. Both the purpose and essence of education are to promote people's healthy and all—round development, which cannot be achieved only by professional education. Then the significance of general education for the training of social workers is self—evident. In order to cultivate social work talents, it is urgent to introduce general education into social work education and arrange general education courses in schools. Making social work education general is not only an effective way of social work, but also a way to carry out social work effectively. Therefore, we should effectively combine general education with social work.

## References

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