Reflective essay on the social work profession

Name

Institution Affiliation

Course

Instructor

Date

**Introduction**

Social work is a professional course that trains people devoted to assisting vulnerable people and groups to work through the problems they face daily. Social work has four main goals: assessing, intervening, evaluating, and developing liberator consciousness. As a social work professional, a person will work with other individuals to their challenges. Social work is a profession that can make a substantial influence on people's lives. This paper will take a look at understanding the social work profession, why I decided to study social work, the strengths that I bring to the profession, and an analysis of one of the fundamental ethical principles outlined in the AASW Code of Ethics 2020.

**Understanding the social work profession**

Social work is an assisting profession, and the main responsibility of the social work profession is to develop people. A social worker professional speaks with clients about their well-being and assists them in meeting their primary and complex requirements with a precise focus on how they live in poverty, oppression, and vulnerability (Giurgiu & Marica, 2013). A social work professional career differs from others because it focuses on the environment and people. Social workers deal with exterior issues that affect people's outlooks and situations. They also generate prospects for intervention and assessment to assist their clients and societies deal with their certainty and changing it if necessary (Strom-Gottfried, 2008). A social worker assists clients not only with dealing with how they feel about circumstances but also with what they can do about it.

Social workers assist individuals from every age group and context in numerous ways. The widely known trait of social work professionals is offering direct therapy and services to clients. Social work professionals guide individuals to serious resources and advise them on life-transforming decisions (Welbourne, 2009). They campaign for transformation to advance social situations and toughen social networks. A social work professional can work in different fields. For instance, they can work in prison to aid convicts as they go back into the public and offer rehabilitative backing in alcohol and drug centers, they can be in community health centers and offer therapy and stop students from dropping out of school, and they can also work in hospitals and help patients deal with chronic illness and acute conditions (Welbourne, 2009).

**Reasons why I decided to study social work**

Social work course shows some of the upsetting sides of humanity, and sometimes it seems impossible to come out of them. Only through social work can someone learn to notice good in people who are taken for granted, be grateful for all they have, and realize that true wealth does not come from material things (Prayuda & Nurdin, 2018). Social work puts someone in extreme and unique situations, and I want to study the course to help me understand how to handle those situations. Through the course, I can learn if I am an expert in dealing with aggressive behaviors, or I may learn how to handle my own emotions at the end of a difficult day.

I also decided to study social work to develop transferable skills such as time management, teamwork, empathy, problem-solving, and client communication. A degree in social work will also offer me the ability to assume a range of different professional roles, such as in fostering sector in hospitals, working with older people, or child protection (Prayuda & Nurdin, 2018). Lastly, I wanted to learn how to make a positive impact. Through social work, I can learn, understand and strive to advance the lives of individuals in society. As a social worker, I can listen to people's needs and help them handle and improve their quality of life.

**Strengths that I bring to the social work profession**

The key strengths I bring to social work are advocacy and empathy. As a social worker with advocacy skills, I can argue, represent, and connect clients with needed resources and opportunities, mainly when they are vulnerable. Besides, with empathy skills, I can identify and understand other people's points of view and experiences.

**Reflection on the critical values of the social work profession**

Human rights are rights integral to everyone, irrespective of religion, language, ethnicity, nationality, sex, race, or another status (Kallestad, 2021). Human rights include the right to work and education, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom from slavery and torture, right to life and liberty, and others. Social workers value the worth and dignity of every individual. Social workers treat every client compassionately and respectfully, mindful of ethical diversity, cultural norms, and personal differences. They promote their client's socially responsible self-determination based on their values (Kallestad, 2021). A social work professional endeavors to address clients' needs, ability to change, and become self-reliant. They are also always aware that they are responsible to their organization, the law, and clients. Social workers resolve the conflict between society and clients in a socially responsible and respectful way.

Social justice is the fair and equitable division of a society's privileges, opportunities, and resources. Formerly, it was a religious notion but has come to be intellectualized more lightly as the just organization of social foundation that provides access to economic benefits (Strom-Gottfried, 2008). Social workers promote social justice, and they condemn social injustices. Social work professionals provide resources and social support for oppressed and susceptible individuals and groups. Their social transformation efforts focus on discrimination, joblessness, housing, schooling, and poverty (Strom-Gottfried, 2008). Social workers encourage public sensitivity to social justice matters and support the public to hold genetic diversity and cultural respect.

**Analysis of one of the fundamental ethical principles as outlined in the AASW Code of Ethics**

**Professional integrity**

Social workers act truthfully because they are mindful of the occupation's ethical standards, principles, values, and missions and practice in a reliable way. Social workers should measure to care for themselves personally and professionally. They should work responsibly and honestly and encourage ethical actions on the part of the establishments with which they are associated.

According to AASW (2020), social workers are guided by principles of good character, trustworthiness, and honesty in all phases of specialized conduct (Australian Association of Social Workers, 2020). The social work profession guarantees that any participation in research activities is ruled by guidelines and ethics regulations from relevant funding bodies, agencies, research institutes, universities, and governments. The profession encourages and aids lasting supervision, training, education, and learning to maintain professional commitment and competence to integrity. The social work profession encourages accountability, transparency, and propriety in professional judgments and actions (Australian Association of Social Workers, 2020). The profession supports reflected self-awareness in justifying and making decisions. The social work profession promotes the responsible use of authority and power in a way that serves people. Lastly, the profession prioritizes the requirements of others over individual gain.

**Summary**

In summary, social work is an assisting profession, and the main responsibility of the social work profession is to develop people. A social work professional career differs from others because it focuses on the environment and people. I decided to study social work because I wanted to learn about myself, gain transferable skills, job opportunities, and make a positive impact. The skill I bring to the profession includes advocacy and empathy.

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