

Social Work Training in Canada

As we know social work is a profession that assists individuals, families, groups and communities in enhancing their individual and collective well-being. It assists individuals in developing their own skills and the ability to use their own and community resources to resolve problems. It is also concerned with broader social issues such as poverty, unemployment and family violence. Historically, social work was associated with charities and voluntary assistance to the needy. Now it is public service provision, citizenship rights of the welfare state.

In Canada at the undergraduate level, most educational institutions focus on generalist practice. A generalist approach ensures that students are exposed to a variety of theories and skills to address diverse issues in various fields of practice. Courses cover such areas as human behavior and social development, social service provision, social policy and social intervention. At the graduate level, students specialize in fields of study such as family and child welfare, mental health and justice [2].

New specializations of social work develop in response to personal and social problems created by changes in society. Across Canada, intervention methods in social work include counseling, group work, community development and social administration, although they share a common body of theory and practice integral to the profession as a whole. Social workers act as counselors to individuals and families suffering from problems such as marital breakdown, parenting inadequacies, child abuse, alcoholism and drug abuse (drug use, non-medical), as well as issues that may arise in schools or in the workplace [1].

Group work generally refers to programs in which participants are not necessarily closely related. Sometimes the groups are organized around so-

cial-recreational programs, sometimes they are formed to deal with personal problems or simply to share common experiences. Community development refers to activities aimed at improving social conditions, coordinating services or promoting public-policy changes. Emphasis is shifting to development of community leaders and self-help initiatives. Finally, with the growth of public and voluntary services, social workers are increasingly required to specialize in social administration.

Many social workers are employed in public social and health services contributing to the care and rehabilitation of the physically and mentally ill, the young, the aged and the mentally challenged or the disabled. School boards engage social workers to counsel students with emotional and social problems. Settlement houses, community centers, senior-citizen centers and hostels hire social workers to work with individuals and groups [3].

In my opinion social work is continually adapting to demographic and cultural changes in Canadian society. In this respect, an aging population, the increasing diversity of society, and the social needs of native people are emerging priorities in social services and social work education. The profession is also concerned about the preservation of quality programs and the nature of practice in a time of fiscal restraint and cutbacks. The profession continues to be engaged in reform movements to change negative societal attitudes toward people in need and to advocate for human rights, social justice and gender equality. In spite of these professional commitments, however, the future role of social work within the public sector remains uncertain.

Библиографический список

1. Steve Hick. Social Work in Canada, 2010. 400 pp.
2. Social work in Canada URL: <http://www.casw-acts.ca/en/what-social-work> (Дата обращения 12.03.2015).
3. What is social work URL: <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/social-work> (Дата обращения 06.03.2015).