

REVIEW OF THE INPUT BY PUBLIC THAT IS SOUGHT BY A GROUP OF SOCIAL-CHANGE ADVOCATES

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ABSTRACT

At some point in life, many people may find that they are unable to support themselves sufficiently; for others, this will be a lifelong battle. There are a wide range of personal reasons for this, ranging from physical or mental limitations to a lack of suitable socialisation and education to a lower social standing as a result of birth, custom, or bad luck. It is important to note that social issues such as a lack of public resources and service and unsupportive politics also have an influence and impede the ability of individuals to go forward. Human dignity and the necessities of food, water, shelter, and shelter are frequently a source of conflict for many individuals. People all throughout the world have devised strategies to help them climb above the adversities they face. Millions of individuals have benefited from social programmes and services that have improved their health, well-being, and productivity.

Keywords: Power and social inequality, Social services, determination

I. Introduction

At some point in their lives, many people find themselves unable to provide for themselves sufficiently; for others, it's a lifelong effort to get out of it. A person's individual reasons might range from physical or mental limitations to a lack of suitable upbringing, schooling, or social standing (due to birth, tradition, or tragedy). It is important to note that social issues such as a lack of public resources and service and unsupportive politics also have a significant influence on the ability of individuals to go forward. Food, water, housing, and health care are some of the most fundamental needs of the world's population (Love, *et al.* 2021). People all throughout the world have devised strategies to help them climb above the adversities they face. Numerous social initiatives and services have improved the quality of life for millions of individuals.

II. The demand for qualified advocates

Social services, on the other hand, are frequently unrecognised or unavailable to people who require them. Individuals with little financial means have a difficult time discovering resources that can assist them overcome the obstacles that impede their personal growth and development. Social workers have long sought to connect individuals, families, and communities to available resources in an effort to enable people to participate fully in society (Russell, & Jovanovic, 2020). The process has made them champions for people and groups in their hunt for the resources they need. Since services were not accessible to satisfy major community needs, social workers

understood that they had to fight for policy and programme reforms with bigger systems—organizations, communities, and society.

It takes knowledge, determination, and work to advocate for a cause as well as a case, and this can be difficult for those who are already struggling to make ends meet. In contrast, social workers have made it their life's mission to assist the poor (Zhang, & Guo, 2021). They've been educated and trained to leverage their clients' strengths to overcome obstacles. Social workers believe that they have a duty to better the lives of those they serve while also advancing the prospects of those who are going through similar difficulties.

III. Power and social inequality

The concept of social inequity is implicit in this discussion of the necessity for professional advocates—that is, social workers. Social benefits and resources, status, income and power are not evenly distributed; some individuals have more, while others have less (Abebe, *et al.* 2020). Humanity must deal with some degree of inequity. Leaders may utilise their power to reshape society so that they can achieve their goals (Suárez, 2020). Doing so can sometimes have a negative impact on lower socioeconomic groups. These disparities and their impact on clients and social institutions are taught to social workers throughout their training. Teachers and other professionals also get training in the fight against social injustice at all levels and in many different fields of work.

It has been increasingly common for social workers to incorporate the notion of empowerment into their practise during the past few decades (Heath, & Waymer, 2021). Customers' capacity to shape their own futures and make life-altering decisions is referred to as "empowerment" when used in the context of advocacy. Both the services they get and policies, programmes and laws that affect other people's access to those services are influenced by the people they serve. Social workers have an important role in society, but their primary responsibility is to assist their clients in achieving their own personal goals and bringing about positive social change.

IV. The ethics of advocacy

Social workers' engagement in advocacy (and other types of social work intervention) is based on the professional mandate for them to exercise ethical behaviour in the field. Social workers are obligated to "push for living situations conducive to the fulfilment of fundamental human needs" under the Code of Ethics of the National Association for Social Workers (NASW) (Nicholas, Eastman-Mueller, & Barbich, 2019). As outlined in the Code of Ethics, social workers are also obligated to contact, initiate, support, educate, and organise their clients for advocacy engagement. Advocacy is also outlined in the International Federation of Social Workers' definition of ethical social work practise (2004).

As a result, social workers see advocacy as a professional obligation and a show of competence. Nancy's ethical commitment to enhance her clients' well-being via competent practise led her to push for social workers in her state to be licenced (Gurrieri, *et al.* 2018). Advocacy work by social workers is careful not to impose the ideals and interests of the workers themselves. Social workers are in a position to affect their clients' perceptions and behaviours because of their position of power in assisting interactions (Kaplan, *et al.* 2021). No matter what topic or cause you are advocating for (e.g., affordable housing, child welfare, health care for all), the primary focus of your ethical advocacy should always be on the needs and wants of your clients.

V. Client Self-Determination

It is founded on the notion of client self-determination, which states that users of services are responsible for making their own judgments and choices based on their values and preferences. Advocacy must take place in a way that encourages and does not interfere with or violate the client's right to self-determination because of the power imbalance between social workers and their clients.

Taking up the cause of others is a fundamental part of social work advocacy (Herrera, & Trubek, 2019). Social workers are mindful of putting aside their own views in order to investigate an issue or cause from the perspective of the client. It is difficult to put yourself in the shoes of a client because it requires the ability to learn from the client and work through power imbalances in the social worker-client interaction.

VI. Self-Interest and Advocacy

Self-interest, case advocacy, and cause advocacy are all terms that social workers should be familiar with in order to effectively advocate on behalf of their clients. Instead of helping themselves, social workers should pursue a career in service of others, particularly those from marginalised groups (such as those who face discrimination on the basis of their gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, race, or ethnicity). Social workers put the needs of their clients first.

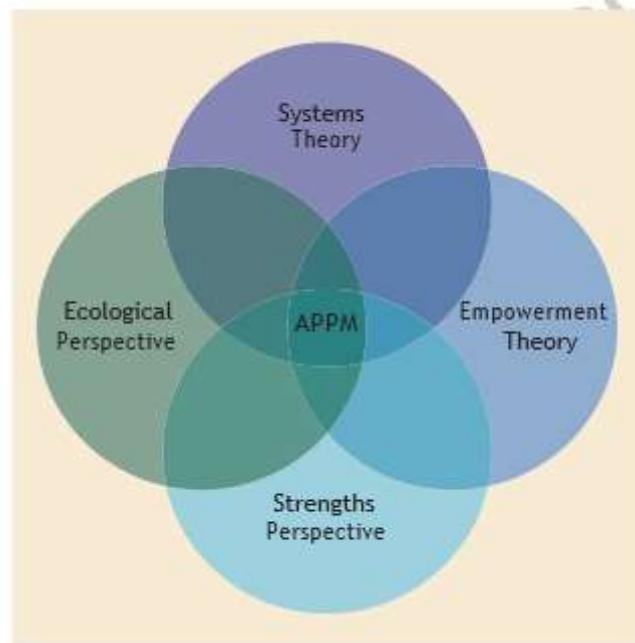
Self-interest, case advocacy, and cause advocacy may be explained by thinking about what college students could do if they earned an unsatisfactory score in a group project. Students may claim that the teacher should have given them higher grades because the other members of their group did not put in as much effort.

VII. Individual Benefit versus Community Benefit

People in the United States tend to think about needs in terms of what they can do for just themselves or just one other person, rather than in terms of how they can benefit the whole community or how they can effect large-scale change. Despite the fact that individual-level advocacy might have a positive impact on the individual, it is often ineffective in promoting community or institutional change (Gurrieri, *et al.* 2018). Individuals or groups might be seen as the primary beneficiaries of the change process in terms of advocacy vs personal benefit. Using the person reigns supreme approach, it is possible to understand how case advocacy is limited in terms of what it can accomplish. Advocating for food assistance with a client, for example, can be crucial in meeting a person's immediate needs, but it may have minimal effect on other persons in similar situations in the future.

VIII. The cycle of advocacy

When applied to social work advocacy, the generalist practise change method may easily be extended to link practise objectives and outcomes (Suárez, 2020). The APPM is used to depict the many stages of the intervention process. Intervention is a dynamic process, much as in generalist practise. A focus on both issues and strengths is emphasised in this show, as is the fact that advocacy involves individuals (at the micro level), families and groups (at the mezzo level), as well as organisations, communities, and entire societies (at the macro level) (the macro level).



IX. Theoretical Framework for the Advocacy Practice and Policy Model

Advocacy, like generalist practise, relies heavily on the feedback loop. Adaptation and compromise are more likely to be required when a larger group of individuals is involved in the process of change.

Advocacy's cycle may be seen as a structure for directing client or collaborator behaviour while working with a social worker. "Did the tactics work?" is a question that may be used to assess the success of a planned activity. Is life better now? And "Was there a systematic change?"

In order to improve the success of the advocacy cycle, one social work researcher and educator proposes that practitioners follow these guidelines:

- Begin working together. Take a look at the larger picture and see what may have changed.
- Put your managerial and program-planning talents to work for you. There must be a way to evaluate and review the work.
- Analyse theoretical and practical aspects. Examine your professional experience critically and reflectively.
- Analyse evidence that has been gathered. To obtain proof, make use of your micro- and research abilities.
- Advocacy begins. Begin the process of persuading decision-makers with your ability to engage them.

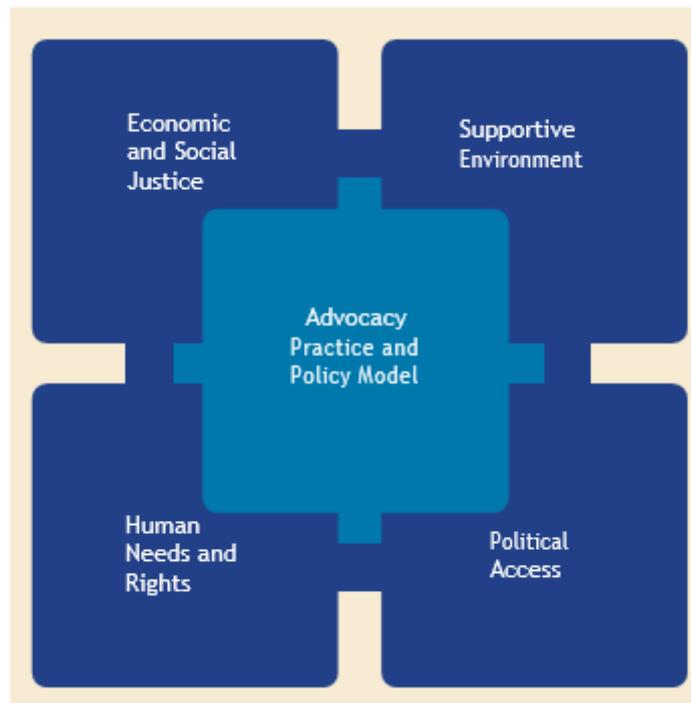


Advocacy Activities in Social Work

X. Tenets of advocacy practice and policy model

As a central issue, this book focuses on the importance of advocacy in social work practise. Here, in this report there is a section in each of the following chapters that addresses one of the four major philosophical ideas (or tenets) that many social workers adhere to in their work. There are four interconnected principles: economic and social justice, an enabling environment, human rights and political access (Heath, & Waymer, 2021). These principles enable ethical and successful practise in a dynamic advocacy model. In our view, these fundamentals are both dynamic and intertwined since it is difficult to distinguish between, for example, political access and economic and social justice.

It has been our experience that social workers frequently utilise certain principles of advocacy as a way to gauge the success of their efforts on behalf of a particular client or cause (Zhang, & Guo, 2021). "Does my job promote economic and social justice?" is an example of this. Human rights and fundamental necessities, as well as access to political participation, should be prioritised." Other concepts of advocacy and policy practise might inspire and lead advocacy, but this model provides prospective social workers with an understanding of the most crucial aspects of advocacy.



Dynamic, Interlocking Tenets of Advocacy Practice and Policy Model

This model's four tenets are not completely different or independent, thus it's vital to call that out. Instead, in actual social work practise, these tenets overlap and affect one another significantly. Examples include one's political views as well as one's engagement in a certain political party. Economic and social justice concepts are also influenced by the context in which they are discussed (Love, *et al.* 2021). It is the goal of this book's dynamic advocacy model to stimulate critical and multifaceted reflection and conversation on advocacy in social work practise.

XI. Conclusion

Consider if advocating for one's own rights in a particular instance is an efficient use of one's time and resources. There are many advocates that believe in the importance of promoting social justice or bettering the lives of others rather than focusing just on one's own well-being. The idea that the community is the most important thing fits with the attitude of placing self-interest in the context of advocating laws and practises for the common good (Kaplan, *et al.* 2021). If, for example, a person in need is helped by lobbying with clients to advocate fair policies for getting food assistance from community groups, it has the potential to help many more.

Despite the fact that social workers are expected to put others' needs before their own, the willingness and skill to speak up for one's own rights can be an asset to a social worker. People who are unable to summon the energy and desire to assist themselves successfully advocate fairness and social or financial justice for other people. People who are willing to actively participate in a case or a cause, rather than simply watching passively, have merit.

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