

The
Management
University
of Africa



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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

SWK 403 : INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

DATE: 4TH APRIL 2025

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK IN PRACTICE: A CASE STUDY FROM NORTHERN UGANDA

International social work is gaining recognition as a distinct field of study and practice, and in this process, its meaning continues to be delineated. Personal experiences to illustrate how the psychosocial skills, practices, and theory of the social work profession can lend themselves well to the emotional and managerial demands of international work in a post conflict, developing country context. The study aimed to explore adolescent girls' experiences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and to assess relevant support structures in the context of conflict and displacement.

Since the early 2000, civil conflict ravaged and killing thousands and leaving more than 1.8 million people displaced (Integrated Regional Information Networks [IRIN], 2007; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre [IDMC], 2008). Rape and forced marriage were systematically and widely perpetrated as war tactics, and domestic violence increased due in part to the destruction of many traditional family and community support mechanisms (Annan, Blattman, Carlson, & Mazurana, 2008; Olara, 2004; Patrick, 2005).

Looking at my role primarily as one of "helper" in facilitating the completion of a study, I organize this discussion according to the three key phases of the helping process - beginning, middle or work, and ending phases - described in direct social work practice literature (Birnbaum & Cicchetti, 2005; Hepworth et al., 2006). The Beginning Phase: Exploration, Engagement, and Planning What is International Social Work? As I entered graduate school, I was particularly interested in exploring the integration of social work into the international development and humanitarian fields. While much has been written on the subject, the definition of "international social work" continues to be debated. The International Federation of Social Workers (2000) suggests that the social work profession "promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being." Within this broad understanding of the profession, definitions

of international social work range from a set of **specific skills and knowledge** to intercultural exchanges between social workers, to a more general global awareness within the profession (Healy, 2001; Midgley, 2001). Activities can include engaging with international populations domestically, conducting international development work, creating exchanges through international professional journals and meetings, and adapting interventions cross-culturally (Healy, 2001; Midgley, 2001).

Though safety had significantly improved at times the researchers and are left feeling powerless against these considerable systemic obstacles. To prevent burnout and the vicarious trauma that can result from exposure to such difficult circumstances, social work promotes the importance of maintaining staff wellness through a combination of self-care and organizational responsiveness (Clemans, 2004; Pross, 2006). Given the challenging context and content of our study, the research staff and I established a plan to regularly check safety updates, set a norm that no one would travel to a place where they felt unsafe, and agreed to the importance of establishing a work/ life balance.

In my own experience working at an agency serving domestic violence survivors, I had also found group debriefings valuable for reflecting on the emotional nature of the work (Clemans, 2004). Some of the research staff also suggested such debriefs, so we agreed to meet periodically as a group to express and share our experiences (United Nations High Commission on Refugees [UNHCR], 2001). Doing so was helpful, enabling us to discuss the importance of establishing boundaries with interviewees despite our natural desire to assist them beyond our means, and to reflect on what we could do. Together we developed a list of interviewees with acute needs, should discrete funding become available to assist them; identified referral sources including free or low-cost HIV services, village-based social workers, and a regional hospital with a psychiatrist on staff; and we brainstormed ideas for more sustainable programs that could address the needs of study participants.

Required:

- a) Describe the three key phases of the helping process as a social worker.

(9 Marks)

- b) Safety is significant; evaluate three solutions applicable to the researchers to prevent burnout during systemic obstacles. (10 Marks)
- c) In relation to the case above, examine two systematically tactics of war. (6 Marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Describe any four methods of disseminations. (8 Marks)
- b) Once the dissemination objective and the audience are identified, there are a variety of ways to share the developed content. Explain the role of stakeholders in dissemination. (7 Marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Employ three ways of choosing which practice levels is suitable to social worker. (6 Marks)
- b) Social work is a dynamic profession, requiring you to stay current in the field. Examine three ways showing how social worker could stay current in the professional field. (9 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) In contrast to the discourse of social work responsibility for the moral advancement of Indigenous people, alternative conceptions of social work draw upon ant oppressive and anticolonial discourse. Expound five issues around social work in relation to colonialism. (10 Marks)
- b) Discuss the rationale behind the social work theory. (5 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Social work in the Kenyan situation existed even before the country got independence from the British in the year 1963. Evaluate the relationship of Kenya and other bilateral partners in the subject of social work. **(9 Marks)**
- b) Social workers elevate service to others above self-interest. Summarize three values of a social work. **(6 Marks)**

QUESTION SIX

- a) Analyze three types of international social work organization. **(6 Marks)**
- b) Discuss the models of Education for International Social Work Practice. **(9 Marks)**

