

Social Work Education Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

Social Work Field Practicum in Vietnam: Challenges and Recommendations for a Better Model

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Research Objectives

- ❑ Describe current field models in Vietnam
- ❑ Challenges in current field models
- ❑ Solutions and directions for social work field education in Vietnam



Methodology

☐ Qualitative

☐ Data collection:

- Focus group
- In-depth interview

☐ Sample:

- 6 cities and provinces (Hà Nội, Vinh, Huế, Hồ Chí Minh, Đà Lạt, Đồng Tháp)
- 24 focus groups with social work students, alumni, lecturers and field supervisors
- 3 interviews with government staff who are responsible for social work sector

Collaboration Method

- ❑ SJSU professor got the IRB approval from SJSU
- ❑ 8 lecturers were divided into 4 groups to do Literature review and develop focus group and interview questions.
- ❑ 8 lecturers collected data at their universities and their provinces/cities.

Collaboration method

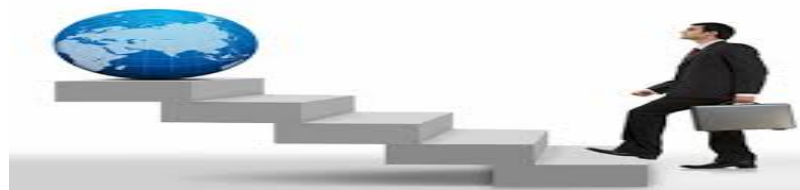


- ❑ Webex meetings to share results and difficulties during implementation
- ❑ Online training on related research skills: develop research questions, literature review, data analysis
- ❑ Using google site to share documents

FINDINGS

Similarities of Current Field Programs

| Field model | Duration | Placement | Methodology | Assessment |
|---|---------------|---|--|---|
| 1) Field visit | 12-18 credits | social service agencies; social protection centers; community in and outside province | observe, practice with a client, specific group; survey a community and develop community plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students write a field report, diary. - Field supervisors assess students by looking at students' work at the field agency - Lecturers assess students' participation process and evaluate based on their reports |
| 2) Social work with individuals and groups practice | | | | |
| 3) Community development practice | | | | |



Differences of Current Field Programs

- One university has a different practicum: students go to the field and apply research skills to study a population or an issue, then propose solutions for this issue
- One has a practicum to practice in social welfare, social policies, and social work administration.
- Students evaluation: some universities apply the principle: 60-40 or 70-30; some changed to field instructors do all the evaluation.
- Length and names of field practicum vary greatly

Strengths & Limitations

Strengths:

- Diverse and quite comprehensive content, appropriate to the curriculum
- Some field instructors are enthusiastic
- Clear plan
- Diverse field placements



Strengths & Limitations

□ Limitations:



- Lack of qualified field instructors. Some of them haven't taken any training in SW/haven't got skills in supervision
- Conflict between students and field instructors
- Different expectations between field liaisons and field instructors
- Inadequate methods to evaluate students

- Weak collaboration mechanism
- Some universities lack official contracts with field agencies and mostly based on personal contacts of field liaisons

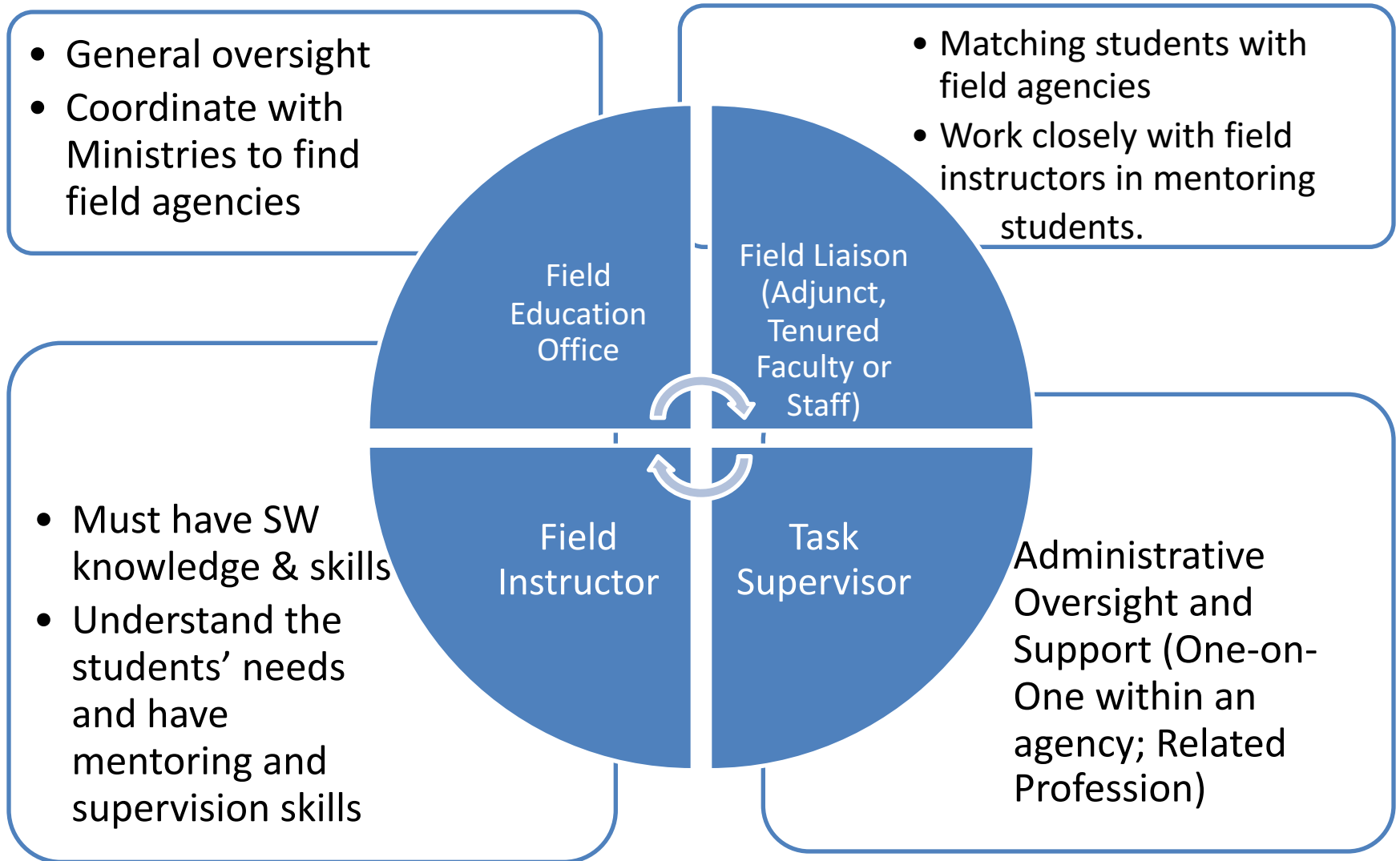


Recommendations



- ❑ Develop a competency based field education
- ❑ Equipping students with some soft skills before going to the field
- ❑ Increase time for field practicum
- ❑ Incorporate some of faculties' research projects when taking the students to the field
- ❑ Better mechanism in matching students with the field agencies
- ❑ Provide allowance for field instructors
- ❑ Provide trainings for field supervisors

Ideal Model for Field Practicum



Ideal Model for Field Practicum

- ❑ Emphasize the activeness of students: actively seeking a suitable field agency, actively asking for help in the agencies.
- ❑ Field evaluation is done by 3 sides: Field instructor, student (peer feedback), and field supervisor.
- ❑ Have a reflection meeting after the field practicum is completed to withdraw lessons learned, what else need to be improved, group members provide feedback and evaluate each other.
- ❑ Field practicum accounts for 45-50% total program time

QUESTIONS

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DICUSSION

