

# Community Development in the context of global Social Work Education

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# Global Social Work definition 2014

- “Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people.
- Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work.
- Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing”.

# Global Social Work Agenda

- Three global bodies:
  - International Federation of SW - profession;
  - International Association of Schools of SW - education;
    - International Council on Social Welfare – civil society
- Joint agreement on:  
SW definition, ethics in SW, global standards for education and training in SW, SW agenda
- Global SW agenda 2012-2016:
  - Promoting social and economic equalities
  - Promoting the dignity and worth of peoples
  - Working toward environmental sustainability
  - Strengthening recognition of the importance of human relationships

# Social Work as Discourse

- Social work as the interplay of varying ideas, practices, policies, people and groups that are dynamic and contested
  - constructs what ‘social work’ is.
- Social work as a three way discourse:
  1. **Social order**  
(welfare services to individuals, social protection)
  2. **Therapeutic**  
(growth and fulfilment for people)
  3. **Transformational**  
(transform societies to benefit the oppressed)

(Payne, 2006)

# CD and SW alignment

- A CD role that may focus on transformation but still acts to protect and may support the growth of members of a group.
- A SW role that may focus on welfare service provision but supports children's growth and participates in stopping violence initiatives.
- CD focus of social justice and human rights incorporated within the SW definition and ethical principles.
- CD as a component alongside SW and Counselling constituting the Department of Social Practice, Unitec.
- The BSocP recognised for graduate social work registration

# CD and SW alignment

- At the global level there are many examples of community development practice being the primary expression of those who align with Social Work and Social Work Education.
- Example of the India subcontinent where social work is relatively well established and includes significant community development practice.
- Professor Vimla Nadkarni is the President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work and was the founder of the eminent Tata Social Work Institute in Mumbai, India – she writes of the complex context for social work and education, but also the growth of a rights and development focus (Nadkarni and Joseph, 2014).
- A recent edition of the IASSW Social Dialogue journal focused on community development (IASSW, 2014).

# References:

- IASSW (2014). Social Dialogue: Community based social economy and community development, IASSW.
- IASSW, et al. (2012). The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development: Commitments to Action.
- IFSW, et al. (2014). "Global definition of social work." from <http://ifsw.org/get-involved/global-definition-of-social-work/>.
- Nadkarni, V. V. and S. Joseph (2014). Envisioning a professional identity: Charting pathways through social work education in India. Global social work: Crossing borders, blurring boundaries. C. Noble, H. Strauss and B. Littlechild. Sydney, Australia, Sydney University Press: 71-83.
- Payne, M. (2006). What is professional social work? Bristol, England, Policy Press.