

Round-Up Session

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1. CULTURE



Culture

During these two days, while talking about decolonization, indigenization, or spirituality, we've heard terms such as *Cultural background, Indigenous Culture, Culturally relevant, Cultural competence, Cultural Humility*, etc.

Culture is a term often used in the field of social work.

Culture

However, sometimes the term “culture” is misunderstood.

I have a culture.

I have not a culture.

Culture is NOT a thing. Thus, it doesn't make much sense if you have it or not.

Culture is a continuing process. The same as language.

Being shared for centuries and being shared right now at this moment.

Culture is about SHARING. It's a process of interacting.

Culture

Therefore, it's very dangerous to say (and I have heard these words from a representative of a social work organization)

"OOO culture should be changed because it doesn't meet principles of social work"

Only some dictators in the past were trying to forcibly change the culture. I am sure that this is the way social work should not follow.

And I am happy because I feel that during the 2-day forum, we all have shared culture as an important process, an important component of our identity, not as a dependent variable of social work.

2. SOCIETY





Social work

Social work is a term composed of "social" and "work."

It's not only a "society"

It's not only a "work"

Social work

Is there only one unique society in the world? The same social structure? The same concept of individual or family. The same communication patterns and patterns of behaviour?

If your answer is NO, then it would be probably hard to say that there is only one unique social work for the whole world.

Social work

It is that value system has been shaping the way how society is constructed and recognized by its members.

E.g.: The value system based on Buddhism allows people in Vietnam or Sri Lanka to recognize mangroves forests or animals as a member of society. And as a subject of social work, indeed.

Social work

You may argue that as a social worker, using the environmentalist approach, you can respect the clients' specific culture and his or her social network.

But what to do if souls of the dead or ancestors are also recognized as members of the society and as members of one's network as seen in Japan and many Asian regions (Gohori, 2016, 2017),

Social work

This factor may bring us to the debate on universalism and relativism

We should be aware of Hofstede and others who prove that in many cases and many various areas (not only in social work) we often tend to use systems, theories, and methods developed in a different environment, societies, or cultural background which are not compatible with the subject (Hofstede, 2001)

2. INDIGENOUS CONTEXT



Global context



“Glocal” or “think globally, act locally”

Is used in the business strategies of companies that are expanding overseas.





Global context

Indigenous context

Is social work a global product we just need to adjust to fit the indigenous context?

My answer is NO.

Social work is an indigenous product we should share in the global context.



Global context

Indigenous context

SOMETIMES, WE ARE MAJORITIES.
AND WE FIND OURSELVES AMONG
A MINORITY SOMETIMES.

SOME OF US WERE COLONIZED 100
YEARS AGO. AND SOME OF US
1000 YEARS AGO. SOME REGIONS
WERE INVADED AND SOME
OCCUPIED. BUT WE STILL HAVE
CONTINUOUS CULTURAL IDENTITY,
INDIGENOUS IDENTITY.

Indigenous Social Work

Indigenous places

We are all indigenous.

The culture has been shaped and shared in the indigenous context.

The social work has been shaped and shared in the indigenous context.

From Indigenous context to the Global context

Share

Let's share various forms of indigenous social work and respect its diversity.

Put
together

Put together these various forms to see what is the same and what's different.

Build

Build social work for the whole world.

Thank you.

References

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