

On the Application Transformation of Social Work Major in Local Colleges and Universities

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Abstract: Application transformation is an inevitable choice for the development of social work major in local colleges and universities. Based on the current reality, this paper points out several problems existing in the training of social work professionals in local colleges and universities, and puts forward practical and feasible strategies. There is a long way to go for the development of social work major in local colleges and universities, which needs many efforts and continuous exploration.

1. Introduction

Social work professionals are one of the six major categories of professional personnel in the country's overall development and an indispensable and important force in the construction of a harmonious society. Social work is established on the basis of solving social practical problems and serving groups in difficult situations, and actively responds to the professional categories and occupational subdivisions of current social construction in our country. The high degree of practice and the pursuit of effectiveness of social work determine that social work majors, different from many traditional university majors, emphasize discipline research and theoretical combining, but strengthen the cultivation and promotion of students' professional skills and professional literacy on the basis of the infiltration of social work concepts. Especially for the construction of social work specialty in local colleges and universities, we should combine local reality, guide students to pay attention to social reality and try to solve some social problems, actively realize the value of social work, and improve the understanding and recognition of social work profession in local society in the process. Therefore, the application transformation of social work specialty in local colleges and universities is not only the basic demand of the specialty, but also highlights the characteristics of social work specialty in the process of transformation.

2. The Practical Basis of Application Transformation of Social Work Major in Local Colleges and Universities

2.1 The Demand of Showing Local Characteristics of Social Work Specialty

In essence, social work is an import and a product of social development in western countries to a certain extent. Its core idea is "help others to help themselves". The so-called "orange change with their environment" means that the emergence and development of any new thing must be closely integrated with its environment. The development of social work in China in the past ten years is based on this concept and has been continuously sinicized. It has been widely recognized by the society in economically developed areas such as Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing, and has become an indispensable and important force to promote local social and economic development and social harmony and civilization. If social work wants to take root all over the country, the most fundamental thing is to serve the local people's livelihood development and social progress. Every local social work service focus and key groups will be different, which is the most practical problem to be considered for local colleges to reflect the characteristics of running schools.

2.2 Practice Witness of Embodying the Value Concept of Social Work

Each profession has its own values advocated by its profession and must abide by. Although social work is still a new profession in our country, it still has values that all social work practitioners share. At present, the professional construction of social work in most colleges and universities in our country focuses on the infiltration of social work value concepts and lacks practical guidance of the concepts in practical application. To realize the application transformation of social work specialty in local colleges and universities is not only conducive to improving students' professional skills, but also more importantly, it can show the concept of social work in social work practice and serving the people in trouble, and increase the popularity and reputation of social work in local society and the people.

2.3 Constructing the Channel Connection of University and Society Docking

At present, one of the problems existing in the practice teaching of social work major or social work major in many local colleges and universities is that it is difficult for students to find an application situation suitable for the theory they have learned in real life and cannot realize the effectiveness of the teaching of social work major. Furthermore, that is to say, the social work teaching in Colleges and universities wants to do its best to serve the local areas but always misses the social problems. However, some social problems that need to be solved by professional talents and professional education forces and the people that need to be rescued are put on hold. Since its inception, social work has placed special emphasis on practicality, with the mission and responsibility of solving social problems and helping stranded people. Linking the teaching and practice of social work specialty with social reality is not only the end-result of the application transformation of social work specialty, but also a “win-win” scheme that benefits both local universities and local society.

2.4 Effective Ways to Improve Students' Professional Ability

Although there is no necessary and direct connection between occupation and specialty in reality. However, for college students, the major is actually a kind of professional intention to some extent, which means to cultivate students' professional skills corresponding to the major. The cultivation and promotion of social work professional ability depends more on practical social work practice, that is, social work practice. Based on the local social problems and serving the local people in trouble should be the base and destination of the application transformation of social work in local colleges and universities. Through the training of front-line social workers and the guidance of social workers, students will deepen their theories and gradually master the professional ability of social work, which is also an important content of professional personnel training in Colleges and universities.

3. Problems Existing in Training Social Work Professionals in Local Universities

3.1 Emphasizing Theory But Neglecting Practice

“The theoretical giant and the operational dwarf” may be a vivid portrayal of the current cultivation of social work talents in colleges and universities. Social work is based on sociology, psychology, management, law and other disciplines. Students are quite familiar with relevant theories, but it is difficult to apply what they have learned in the process of interpreting real cases, and even doubt the feasibility of theories. In addition, there are three methods of social work: case social work, group social work and community social work. What the classroom teaching teaches is only limited to the theoretical knowledge of procedures and skills, and rarely into the real social problems. Therefore, the field of social work industry agreed that, given the high requirements of social work occupation, the new graduates of social work specialty need a longer time to adapt and carry out work compared with other occupations.

3.2 Emphasis on Specialty But Less Occupation

Although the education department of our country put forward the application transformation of relevant colleges and universities several years ago, most local colleges and universities are listed here, advocating the cultivation of skilled talents with core professional abilities. However, the fact is that apart from some higher vocational colleges, many local colleges still do not know enough about applied majors or training professional talents. At present, the social work specialty has been set up in many local colleges and universities in China, and the quality of setting up is also mixed. At present, the traditional theoretical teaching mode is still used, and only professional courses are taught. For the social work profession, which is still not known by people in the central and western regions, it does not give detailed introduction and guidance to students, and it is in professional education and occupation The breaking state of cognition.

3.3 Generalization of Personnel Training

Talent training is related to the future trend of professional students and determines the fate of professional development. The suspension of social work undergraduate course in Sun Yat sen University and the evaluation of social work majors in many schools have put up “yellow cards” to make many social people sing down social work. The favorable policies on social work in the 13th five year plan and the annual government work report are frequently issued. This shows that from the perspective of national and social development, the prospect of social work is very good. One of the most important reasons for the low social evaluation of social work major training in colleges and universities is the generalization and vagueness of talent training, the lack of clear professional orientation, the convergence of talent training modes in many colleges and universities, and the serious homogenization problem.

3.4 Students' Cognitive Ambiguity

Students majoring in social work have a vague understanding of social work, which is a major problem that must be paid attention to in the training of social work talents. At present, there are still many students majoring in social work who equate “social work” with “community work” or believe that “social work” is no different from “public welfare”. There are also many students who think that the profession of social work “has no future” from a practical and utilitarian point of view. Especially for many colleges and universities, social work is a new major, and this problem is even more prominent. Effective professional cognitive education for students, so that students can have a systematic and profound understanding of their major and possible future careers, is difficult to achieve only through theoretical teaching in the classroom, but also requires practical social work practice and training.

4. Strategies for Application Transformation of Social Work Major in Local Universities

4.1 Focus on Training Students' Professional Skills

Sun Yat-sen University and other key colleges and universities will stop recruiting undergraduate majors in 2017. A signal released by these colleges and universities is that their future social work personnel training will turn to research-oriented, which is also an important part of the research-oriented transformation of key colleges and universities in China's education strategy. However, for local colleges and universities, especially for half of them that do not have the research-oriented academic strength, the development direction of social work is to focus on skills, and the training of talents should be oriented towards application and practicality. Local colleges and universities should focus on the local social problems and clarify the core professional skills of students according to the actual situation, take various ways to strengthen the training, strengthen the practice link, and investigate the students with various assessment methods, so as to strive for students' graduation to be competent for the front-line social work.

4.2 Strengthen Substantive Cooperation with Local Social Work Organizations

The healthy development of social work in colleges and universities must closely cooperate with social work organizations, which is the consensus of current social work personnel training. Local social work organizations have experienced social work practitioners and are familiar with and have in-depth understanding of relevant social issues in the place where they are located. These are all factors that are very lacking in practical teaching in colleges and universities. Local colleges and universities should explore various ways of cooperation to promote professional teaching and students' professional skills through cooperation with social work organizations. But at the same time, it can also provide targeted theoretical guidance and reasonable suggestions for social work organizations, and both sides can achieve “win-win” in all-round cooperation.

4.3 According to the Local Reality, Locate the Professional Characteristics

Homogenization is a major taboo in the development of local colleges and universities. Only with distinct characteristics can the development be lasting. Social work can take root in local areas, which requires local colleges and universities to be able to extract professional characteristics and focus on building them at the beginning of specialty opening. The level of economic development varies from place to place, and social development varies greatly from place to place, with different social problems. This determines that the social work service population and the problems to be solved will be quite different, which provides a necessary foundation for local colleges and universities to condense the characteristics of social work personnel training. In addition, each university also has its own original accumulation, for example, normal universities have comparative advantages in developing school social workers, and agricultural and forestry universities can do more in-depth rural social work, etc. The combination of local social development and universities' own advantages will surely realize the unique advantages of social work personnel training.

4.4 Discover and Commit to Solving Some Local Practical Problems

Social work departments in many key colleges and universities have set up independent social work organizations to serve the local people. However, for a larger number of local colleges and universities, the cultivation of social work talents is still at the exploratory stage, and there must be no corresponding social work organization for students to practice. In this regard, local colleges and universities should do their best to solve some social problems from the perspective of the values of “helping people, contributing and serving”. Only in the process of solving practical problems can middle school students truly feel the significance of social work, and make the society continuously accept and recognize the new career of social work.

5. Conclusion

Since 1988, when the Ministry of Civil Affairs funded Peking University to set up its first social work major after the reform and opening-up in mainland China, social work education in mainland China has gone through 31 years of ups and downs. As a rising star, the social work major in local colleges and universities, combined with its own advantages, based on the actual situation in the region, explores and practices a unique talent training model for social work major, which is necessary and important. The standards of qualified personnel are social evaluation and industry evaluation. Only by deeply exploring social needs and industry standards can we cultivate social work professionals in the new era. Generally speaking, the development of local social work specialty is bound to be not smooth. The development of new things is bound to have twists and turns. The only way for the development of social work in local colleges and universities is to base on itself, serve the local areas and apply transformation.

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