Social work education in Vietnam: A critical look at the field education programs of 8 universities in Vietnam

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Research Aims

- Explore the current field education model(s) in Vietnam
- Strengths and weaknesses of the current field education system
- Solutions and directions for social work field education in Vietnam
Research Method

Qualitative approach

- Focus groups (24)
- In-depth interviews (7)

Sample:

- Lecturers and students from 8 universities
- Field supervisors or field agencies staff
- Government officials
## Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Respondent</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency Representatives</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Representatives</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collaboration

- IRB from SJSU
- Data collection from 8 lecturers in Vietnam
- Webex meetings
- Online training
- Google site
RESULTS
Current Field Practicum Model

- Field Visit
- Specialized Practicums
- Final Internship

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>>SOCIAL PRACTICE PATHWAY
Supervision and Assessment

Supervision:
- Mostly by field instructors

Assessment:
- Students’ reports, diaries, observation
- 60% from field instructors
- 40% from field/task supervisors
Strengths and Challenges of the Current Model
Students’ Learning

- Progressive structure
- Practicum: Learning theories and practice at the same time
- Internship: require students’ independence and proactiveness

- Practicum: too short and did not have time to follow through a case
- Group practicum limits students’ choice of field
- Difficult to manage travelling between schools and placements
University’s support

- Field instructors lack practice experience
- Group assessment is unfair
- Lack of formal collaboration between university & field agency

- Passionate & supportive field instructors
- Sufficient assessment

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>>SOCIAL PRACTICE PATHWAY
Field agency’s support

- Passionate and supportive field supervisors and staff
- Kind to students

- Field supervisors do not have social work degree & limited supervision skills
- Consider students’ practicum as volunteer or charity work
- Hesitant in sharing confidential information with students
Recommendations from Participants
Collaboration with field agencies

- Develop criteria in selecting field agencies
- Have contract with field agencies, invest in long-term relationship
- Provide financial compensation for field supervisors
- Training for field supervisors
- Assessment: 60/40
Collaborate with MOLISA to place students in their local offices

- Raise community’s awareness about social work so that students are not seen as volunteers when doing community development placement.
Students Preparation

Field Supervisors’ Suggestion

- Communication skills
- Computer skills
- Termination skills
Students Preparation

- Organize a forum to invite alumni to share placements’ experience
- Workshop on: how to handle conflicts during placements, what students could expect from field agencies
- University establish a fund or scholarship to support students in doing internship
THANK YOU!