

Professional Values versus Personal Values

Name

Institution

My main motive as a social worker is to work to my best while adhering to the core values of the social work profession. I will ensure that I work so as to enhance the well-being of humans by meeting their basic needs while having a dedicated attention to address the needy people who are oppressed, vulnerable to difficulties and living in poverty (NASW Delegate Assembly, 2008). I have conducted my duties to the best of my knowledge and abilities, something that I came to realize that they go hand in hand with the core values of the social work profession, as I am going to consider them.

To start with are my practices that I have come to realize that they rhyme with the value of service delivery. My main goal has been to help people in need while addressing the social problems they have been facing. I have dedicated my knowledge and skills to ensure that I help the people who are in need and to address their social problems. I have sometimes been volunteering to deliver my professional skills while not expecting any financial gain in return.

The second value that I have come to realize I have been undertaking is that of social justice. I have been challenging the social injustices that are common in workplaces that I have come across. I am known in my practices to be exercising transparency without favoring another group over the other. I could treat all people with equal measure without considering their backgrounds, gender, race, and religion or wealth status.

The third value that I have been adhering to is the dignity and worth of the person. In my undertaking in place of work, I have always worked to my best to ensure that I satisfy my clients by responding to their requests according to their expectations. In my undertakings, therefore, I have always sought to see that the clients are satisfied and respected. I could ask them if they still need any help and if they are satisfied with my services.

The fourth value that I have ensured that I adhere to is that of integrity. I have always ensured that I work in a manner that my clients and my employees see me as a trustworthy person. I have always adhered to my professional mission, values, ethical standards and ethical principles and practice them in a manner consistent.

The other value that I have been adhering to is that of competence. I have always delivered my duties to the best of my knowledge so as to ensure that I adhere to the standards of my profession without any irregularities. I have always been disciplined in my work, and no case has been reported that I have done against my field of expertise.

The last professional social value that I have bestowed and upheld is the value of human relationships. I have always had good relation with my fellow work mates, and we keep on helping each other in case of any need for the fellow employee. Our unity as employees has helped us accomplish our organizational missions and see that we attain self-growth as well.

Question 2

As a social worker, professional values always come into conflict with personal values. Since most of the social work involves handling people of different diversities, these people have different beliefs and different personal values (Mattison, 2000). As a worker in this field, therefore, one is forced to be flexible to the changes that arise when handling cases that arise from different clients. As a social worker, I always come across many issues out of which I believe in some of them while on the other hand not believing in others, but I need to handle them professionally. For example, I may have been having different beliefs on such issues as that of people with different skin color, relationships between people of the same sex, having different towards people of different religion, and disagreeing on issues such as abortion.

There are many issues that the social workers are subjected to into dilemma (Comartin, 2011). For example, if I am against abortion, and then a client has approached me with a case that she needs to have an abortion and is seeking my advice. As a social worker who also believe that abortion is wrong, what I can do so as not to go according to my personal judgment, but according to that of my profession? Of course, as a social worker, I will need to know from the client why she needs to have an abortion, and whether or not to do so. The client, on the other hand, argues that she wants to get rid of the child because she conceived through a rape case.

The matter at hand becomes more complicated and one can feel for the mother and may justify her need to get rid of the child. But, on the other hand, considering that the life of an innocent child is at risk, one will think of advising the mother not to have an abortion. When the mother is consulted on why she needs to have an abortion, she argues that if she raises the child, the child will keep on reminding her about the incident of rape. Psychologically she is right, but ethically it is wrong to take the life of an innocent child. Giving her an option to bear the child and letting her have the child be adopted did not go well with her. This is because she will be having two problems, i.e. that the child she was not expecting is outside there carrying her blood, and she does not want to see because it will remind her of the rape incident.

If I make a decision based on my belief, the client may go ahead and argue that I went against her wish of having an abortion. On the other hand, if I follow the professional values and procedures and advise the client to have an abortion, I will be going against my personal values which will keep hunting me, and I will not have peace. Professional values and personals values will, therefore, always conflict each other and are difficult to handle.

Question 3

Despite the fact that there are conflicts that are difficult to decide between the professional values and personal values, a solution has to be reached at the end of the day (Kenyon, 1999). Considering an incident such as that of the mother grieving over his son who was killed during a robbery, the mother has a lot of bitterness, which, if not handled with a lot of care, will lead to adverse effects, for example, to a mother's trauma or even a sudden shock that can lead to death. To the extent that the mother tries to understand the loss of her son, she will need to find out the reason why his son should have died. This will also be the most difficult part to explain to the mother because she might not have been expecting her son to be involved in the robbery.

If she used to know that his son was a gangster, then she might have prepared herself for anything to happen to him, and in such a scenario, she will understand the situation at hand although she will be mourning the loss of the son. But if the mother did not know that her son is a robber, then it will be difficult to handle such a situation as the mother will come in defense of his son. She will argue that she was mistaken, or the boy was targeted for something she will demand to know. She will demand to provide evidence of why her boy was killed, otherwise she could have done something bad. If she could come across the killer, the mother will try to revenge on the boy even if it means killing him or her. The worst thing that the mother may do is that if she sees that justice was not exercised, she might resort to committing suicide.

Handling such a case is difficult and requires a special approach by a professional advisor. The mother has the right to mourn the loss of his son while on the other hand she needs to understand that his son is gone just as everyone else has his or her day to die. The advisor will need to provide a satisfactory reason or evidence as to why the boy was killed. Since the advisor

is also human, he or she will also feel for the mother and will try to find a satisfactory reason as to why the boy was killed. If it happens that the evidence provided to the mother is lacking, then the case becomes difficult to handle, and this is where professional values come to contradict with personal ones.

References

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