

A Study on the Opinion of Social Workers Regarding Foreigner Practice of Social Work

Dr. Kinza Farooq

Teaching Associate, Department of Social Work, University of Karachi, Karachi
kinzagemin@gmail.com

Dr. Samina Rauf

Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Karachi, Karachi

Abstract

The aim of this study was to understand the practice and role of foreign professional social workers, many professional social workers connecting with each other for their enhancing their skills and abilities. The value of social workers increases rapidly all over the world and it is facing new challenges as it blends the historical, political and cultural influences. This research paper reviews the recent development of social work profession in a country and foreign social worker, their relations and understanding. In this study 200 professional social workers and descriptive analytical technique were used. The Researchers designed a questionnaire on the basis of socio-economic background, uses of social media, relation with foreigner professional social workers, professional problems, and learning new techniques. This concludes with a discussion on the professionalization of social work, new career opportunities, and way of thinking among both country and foreign social workers. And found that professional social workers are motivated by seeing foreigner professional social workers work also they can play a positive role in preventing the society from misdeed.

Keywords: Social Work, Foreigner Social workers, social network, knowledge, Career.

1. Introduction

In the present time, social work has developed into a profession that is in demand. The professionalization of social work has altered how it should be done in order to serve the people in the society. (Anderson & Herr, 2007)

The practice of social work all over the world more typical and challenging than it was in the past. As far as, due to the rapidly changes it develops unwanted stress and panic on the society for attainment well social services. (Durst, et al. 2006)

International social work has a highly steady and successful position in current times. In the field, more and more perspectives are opening up. Teenagers are growing more interested in social workers, and they are becoming more well-known. (Chow 2001) Now we can say that modern society produced a social work profession. (Payne & Askeland, 2008) Similarly, theoretical, empirical, procedural, practice wisdom and personal knowledge are the basic information practices in social work. (Hudson, 1997) According to the present research, professional social workers are connecting to the foreign social workers for their better success and good position.

The concept of social work has its own relevance in challenging conditions. Within the vast span of international social work practice, it brings together the practice of wisdom. (Bashir, S., Zia, M. F., & Abrar, N. (2020) International social workers can be situated anywhere around the globe to help people. They have particular skills and training are in great demand in which they assist the people in different areas. (FSU online, 2019). Impact of social workers being good leader is high

on understanding of people (Ramzan et al., 2023). Social media motivates much in effective execution (Ramzan et al., 2023).

People nowadays perceive social work to be an international profession, and this has resulted in several new career prospects. Though social work has a long history back to the dawn of humanity, it has only recently gained recognition as a result of man's significant evaluation of social work in relation to a variety of global concerns over the centuries. (Pawar & Cox, 2008)

According to present research, researchers highlight the correlation between country and foreign social workers relations in which they discussed their issues and career, academic opportunities. For their relations it is must to have social connection in which they link together.

As far as to help the people either in privileged and underprivileged areas to provide human necessities in life. All the social workers working in a multiple domains like health, education, legislation, youth, children and social services programs. (Payne, 1997). Resilience reduces distress in patients (Riaz et al., 2021). Better communication and language skills of speaker helps improve health state as well (Javaid et al., 2023). Social workers have broader scope in improving healthcare. Workforce diversity also improves performance (Khan & Javaid., 2023). In education, collaborative strategies and positive learning attitudes make classroom environment more conducive (Ramzan et al., 2023).

According to World Bank Report (2015), approximately 10% of the world's population survived in different issues like poverty, war, natural disasters, human trafficking and diseases and lived \$1.90 a day or less.

Such assistance was extended to subsequent major disasters, including intensive efforts in the context of the 2018 Indonesian tsunami. Many aid organizations also give direct assistance to refugees in Europe, Africa, and South America who have been displaced due to political or economic instability. (FSU online, 2019)

In order to promote humanitarian aid, post-disaster development and rebuild, as well as social and economic growth, social workers have played and continue to play a crucial role globally. (Estes, 2010)

Many governments depend on foreign aid organizations to offer structure and a workforce to guarantee that aid programs deliver the help needed to address pressing issues. The ultimate aims of international social work are to provide aid to those in need and to support in the establishment of institutions. (FSU online, 2019)

A research study conducted by Durst, et al. in (2006), they found that the basically social workers faced many problems in fields such as workload, due to this they faced stress, fatigue and exhaustion. But also, the importance of conflict of social action and social control that they faced in their profession. (Bashir, S., Zia, M. F., & Abrar, N, 2020a)

A researcher Westhues, et al. in (2001) stated that social work profession is faced tough time due to the unawareness and bad relationships of people in society. Thus, sometime it's unable to promote their profession.

Similarly, the social work profession has a knowledge, skill, practice and experience in which it works. And the main goal is to provide better solutions to the multiple problems and make an individual independent in society. (Kendall, 2000)

Social work in all over the world stand for respect for the worth and dignity for every person in a society and as professional goals it provides their best job/duties for all. (Durst, et al. 2006)

2. Literature review

In today's social work literature, both in the Western and non-Western nations, it is widely acknowledged that culture and environment play an important role in the formation of social work.

This has revived discussion over the validity of Western social work practice methods to non-Western situations. (Grey, et al. 2008)

According to Kendall in (2000), As social work enters its 2nd century of service, it must concentrate on how to apply the vast knowledge already available and its many years of professional assisting experience to better address the numerous social problems, both old and new that continue to afflict the world.

Despite their excellent outcomes, the field of social work is currently seeking to grow globally. The terms social development and social welfare are more widely used outside of the United States than the concept of social work. (Moulabuksh, et al. 2021)

The 50 years structure of social work emphasized by many researchers. With great idealist zeal, irregular techniques were first constructed and put into use in the 1950s, but they quickly fell prey to the political bureaucratic structure of power and withered away over time. Then, after a few years, some of these services continue to exist while the others reduce their wayside employment but continue to exist in the West and are still in need of genuine methods. (Graham, 2007)

In society individuals and families continue to experience extreme stress as a result of the world's rapid change. The area of social work is still developing and evolving in response to the shifting circumstances and need for services that's why social work practice today is much more difficult and complex than it was in the past (Teeple, 2000). Quality of life is improved through psychological flexibility (Gull et al., 2023) and reduces stress (Adeeb et al., 2017; Javaid et al., 2023). Traumatic experiences lead to greater influence (Javaid& Mahmood, 2023). Kids become aggressive if guardians are less attentive towards them (Kamran et al., 2023).

An attempt has been made to discuss social work from a global perspective, as one profession working in many different countries as the field of social work continues to grow around the world. (Popple & Leighninger, 2002)

In short, ethical norms and value commitments are the basis of the social work profession. Additionally, there is a universal value. In every nation, social work promotes respect for the value and dignity of every individual. It defines efforts to abolish prejudice and strive toward fair treatment for everyone as professional aims and shares a concern for vulnerable groups, paying particular attention to the poor. As a result, the profession as a whole believes the dedication to social reform and change to be valuable. Values diverge most commonly between individualistic-focused Western societies like Canada and communally oriented societies like Vietnam (Durst, et al. 2006).

Social work is a profession that helps people solve problems, promote stronger relationships, and protect people's rights to freedom in society. (Lundy, 2004)

The idea of the social work profession is transformation, development, social stability, and human rights. It also encourages the individual to focus on their social work. (Healy, 2014)

The Pakistani methodology was evolving, and the social work literature had been first idealized. It is crucial to raise this literature once more as a scientific program in order to examine opportunity and denial and add new lines to it. (Riaz, 2016)

In international forums, social work plays a significant role in supporting human rights and many other causes, including post-disaster recovery and rebuilding as well as social and economic growth. Bashir, S., Zia, M. F., & Abrar, N, 2020b)

From time to time, the value of social work has been seen from a global context, and as a result, a number of additional organizations have been formed based on ideals for professional social work that have been mutually agreed upon. As time passed on, a professional redesign of the social work curriculum started to be designed and was being used all over the world (Moulabuksh, et al. 2021).

The existence of these threats and obstacles prevents mankind from progressing peacefully, prevents the rewards of development and progress from being dispersed or felt equitably across the world. This professional social work practice is a cure for all social ills. The world has also seen that those nations that value social work as a noble profession can overcome all societal obstacles with the aid of these professionals, while on the other hand, those nations that lag behind in these services also lag behind in terms of world peace and prosperity. (Legalist, 2009)

Based on scientific knowledge from research and study, social work theory examines social happenings to perceive what drives individuals at different stages of life and what social workers learn from a range of professions. (Gray, 2010).

Despite the fact that social work as a profession just recently evolved in the West, traditional social support networks for helping individuals in need have existed in all cultures for a very long time. (Kreitzer, et al. 2009) According to this present research many professional social workers are connected to the foreign social workers for getting advance knowledge and techniques, modernize about the foreign country socio economic status and problems, and their role and practice in their respected fields.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the need for international social work education guidelines as a result of the rising demand for acknowledgement of the global nature of social work. (Estes, 2010)

The above literature provides wide ways for future studies on this research issue. Central to our work is to know the relationship between country and foreign social workers relations, their role, their issues and career, academic opportunities and use of social media getting knowledge and information among them. Here are some objectives as follows:

3. Objectives

1. To find out the role of professional social workers in society.
2. To find out the comparison of social work practices of different countries.
3. How many professional social workers connect with foreign social workers for learning and knowledge?

4. Hypotheses

1. The use of social media is motivates professional social workers by seeing other abroad living foreign social workers work.
2. A professional social workers can play a positive role in preventing the society from misdeed.

5. Methodology

This study has a variety of research procedures, including the descriptive, qualitative, and quantitative methods. In essence, a descriptive technique is a way of gathering information. In Karachi, data was gathered to analyze the complex factors influencing social workers current performance and issues. Result data were gathered using both qualitative and quantitative techniques. A list of professional social workers was obtained from the Alumni Directory of Social Workers, University of Karachi through using simple random techniques of probability sampling. Snowball techniques of non-probability were then used because social workers whose addresses were obtained from the alumni directory recommended more new social workers to collect data, based on the availability of 200 respondents. An interview schedule with 144 questions was used to collect data using the descriptive survey technique. The questions covered topics such socioeconomic status, challenges faced by social workers and want to move abroad, salary, job satisfaction, contacts with foreign social workers, use of social media and society's opinions on social work. Data were cross-tabulated by creating contingency tables after the researcher had

finished tabulating the data using the statistical method. Chi-square was then used to test the hypotheses and determine the final association between the independent and dependent variables. The study questionnaire was finalized after pretesting.

6. Result & Discussion

It is observed in this research professional social workers work for organizational success and promotion to people getting aware and will taking social services. This study presents an overview of the brief history, current issues, relations with other foreign professional social workers and their future opportunities. This study emphasizes some of the significant issues that worth and enhance the quality of professional social workers.

Table: 1: Age of Respondents

Ages	Frequency	Percentage
25-30 years	115	57.5%
31-35 years	34	17%
36-40 years	17	8.5%
41-45 years	7	3.5%
46-50 years	13	6.5%
Above 50 years	14	7%
Total	200	100%

According to Table:1, 57.5% of the participants are belong from the age group of 25 to 30 years, 17% of the participants are belong from 31 to 35 years while 8.5% of participants are belong from 36 to 40 years of age. With the evolution to a market-based economy, professional social work and social work education are being reintroduced due to newly emerging social problems. (Lightman, 2003)

Table: 2: Nature of Respondent's institute

Nature of Respondent's Institute	Frequency	Percentage
International Government	2	1%
Private	102	51%
Government	52	26%
NGO's	22	11%
Trusty	11	5.5%
Welfare	9	4.5%
Other	2	1%
Total	200	100%

51% of nature of the participant's institute are private. 26% of nature of the participant's institute are government base while 11% of nature of the participant's institute are NGO based respectively as shown in Table: 2. Social workers are always working to find answers to both local and worldwide issues due to the growing global social challenges. The social work profession's participation in a range of international practice areas and with different organizations focused on global difficulties and concerns is indicative of this trend. (Estes, 2010)

Table: 3: Do respondents use social media

Do Respondent Use Social Media	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	164	82%

No	36	18%
Total	200	100%

There were more than 4.20 billion social media users worldwide as of January 2022 (Statista, 2021). Majority of respondents that is 82% said they use social media rest of 18% said they don't use social media. Less developed country social workers condemned the acceptance of western theories and practice techniques, claiming that they were insufficiently relevant to the needs of the people in their societies. (Midgley, 1990)

Table: 4: Bring improvement in society with the help of social media

Could We Bring Improvement in Society with the Help of Media	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	175	88%
No	25	12%
Total	200	100%

88% of the participants said that they could bring improvement in society with the help of media while 12% of the respondents said that they couldn't bring improvement in society with the help of media. According to a study by Ittefaq et al, (2022), people use social media for social and emotional support or join online communities to look for information and treatment choices on specific health issues.

Table: 5: Does respondents institute give permission to go foreign for training?

Does respondents institute give permission to go foreign for training	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	102	51%
No	98	49%
Total	200	100%

The Table: 5 indicates that the majority of 51% of respondents said that their institute give permission to go foreign for training because its institutional rule to taken training, to improve domestic condition and to increase their experience, while 49% said that their institute not give permission to go foreign for training due to institute don't have enough resources and due to narrow ideology. United States has a long tradition of training and providing social workers internationally. Since the late 1890s, Social work has been a profession in the United States committed to bridging the gap between society's social and economic systems and the people that those structures are designed to serve.

Table: 6: Which website are used mostly by Respondents

Social connection	Frequency	Percentage
Facebook	120	42.8%
Twitter	23	8.2%
Gmail	30	10.7%
Hotmail	10	3.5%
Yahoo	10	3.5%
WhatsApp	10	3.5%
Other	77	27.5%
Total	280	100%

The most popular social media platforms are Facebook and YouTube, which have 2,5 billion and 2 billion members, respectively (Pew Research center, 2020). According to the current study's findings, which are displayed in Table:6. 42% of the participants claimed to use Facebook for social connections. 10.7% of those polled admitted to using Gmail for social connections. Twitter was listed as a social network by 8.2% of the participants.

Table: 7: Requesting answers to respondents as follows:

Answers to Respondents	Yes	No
A social worker should have contacts with foreigner social workers	172 (86%)	28 (14%)
Respondent in contact with foreigner social workers	53 (27%)	147 (73%)
Are Professional social workers move to abroad?	191 (96%)	9 (4%)
If respondent get a chance would respondent like to move abroad	164 (82%)	36 (18%)
Is respondent motivating by seeing other abroad living professional social workers work	121 (61%)	79 (39%)
Social media is increase knowledge and information of Social Work	134 (67%)	66 (33%)
Could professional social worker play a positive role	170 (85%)	30 (15%)
Can professional social worker preventing the society from misdeed	188 (94%)	12(6%)

According to present research, Professional social workers believe that a social worker should have contacts with foreign social workers that is 86% because, a way, to increase their knowledge, to generate and innovate ideas, it can also improve organization's performance, it can help to fulfill the agenda of establishing their own organization and aid in expanding the function of organizations. 14% of respondents said that such contact is not necessary as shown in Table: 7 and the participants think professional social workers move to abroad with a percentage of 96% because it's safe, to live in foreign and for better opportunities and future and for good income. While 27% of the respondents said that they have contact with foreign social workers because knowledge is increase, new ideas come up, the methods of development come to know, there is an opportunity to correct our errors. 73% of the participants said that they don't have contact with foreign social workers because they don't have time, due to burden of work, organization on work n national level and don't have permission from an organization. Since social work is a subject that is studied all over the world, many educational institutions and faculties are able to send their students abroad to do research, observe phenomena, and combine their findings with those from other countries (Moulabuksh, et al. 2021).

If social workers get a chance would respondent like to move abroad with a percentage of 82% because live in foreign country is safer, for children's better future and for good income and for more information while 18% respondents said they do not like to move abroad because they try to terminate our country's social evils so that's why didn't move aboard, they have family's responsibility, our country is more beautiful than others and taking care social and religious values. 61% of respondent said that they are motivating by seeing other abroad living professional social workers work because they discuss their area of field, their nature of work etc. while 39% of

respondent said that they are not motivating by seeing other abroad living professional social workers work because they have work pressure and shortage of time.

As far as Social media is increase knowledge and information of Social Work with the percentage of 67 as according to the present research. Social media usage has significantly increased recently in Pakistan.

94% of respondents said our social system is affected from malfeasance due to no unity in people, lack of education, people busy in different activities and busy to increase income resources and the lowest 6% of respondents said our social system is not affected from malfeasance as mentioned in the above table. 85% of respondents said professional social worker could play a positive role in society by decrease social evils, they can make needy people independent and they could grow the emotions of love and 15% said that they could not play a positive role in society.

Table: 8: What are the topic of respondent's conversation

Topic of conversation	Frequency	Percentage
Religious	12	22.6%
Political	3	5.6%
Cultural	3	5.6%
Social	35	66.0%
Total	53	100%

We're part on the global social change movement and the beneficial networking opportunities that may help us link clients with resources. The Table: 8 shown that 66% respondents said that, their topic of conversation is mostly about social issues, whereas 22.6% of respondents said, they mostly discuss religious topics. About 5.6% of respondents said that, they mostly talk about political and cultural issues. The conversation was beneficial because they gained knowledge through it. They discovered various ways of success and it helped them in generating new ideas.

Table: 9: In the race from other countries what is the degree of our social work

Comparison from other countries	Frequency	Percentage
First degree	24	12%
Middle degree	118	59%
Lower degree	58	29%
Total	200	100%

The Table: 9 indicates that 59% respondents said that our degree of social work is of middle degree in the race from other countries, 29% said it is lower degree in the race from other countries, and 12% respondents said it is of first degree in the race from other countries. Because when they are in touch with other foreign social workers and also using social media/ networking, they better know the status of the social work profession all over the world.

6.1. HYPOTHESIS-1

6.1.1. Problem Analysis:

H1 = By viewing the work of other foreigner professional social worker on social media, professional social workers are impressed.

H0 = By viewing the work of other foreigner professional social worker on social media, professional social workers are not impressed.

Statistical Test

Chi-Square Formula: $\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(fo - fe)^2}{fe}$

Step-1: The Contingency Table

Do Respondent Use Of Social Media	Motivates Professional Social Workers By Seeing Other Abroad Living Professional Social Workers Work		Total
	Yes	No	
Yes	91	73	164
No	30	6	36
Total	121	79	200

Step-2: Listing fe in Contingency Table

Do Respondent Use Of Social Media	Motivates Professional Social Workers By Seeing Other Abroad Living Professional Social Workers Work		Total
	Yes	No	
Yes	91 (99)	73 (65)	164
No	30 (22)	6 (14)	36
Total	121	79	200

Step-3: Find $(fo - fe)^2$ Of Each Cell Of The Contingency Table

fe

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(91 - 99)^2}{99} + \frac{(30 - 22)^2}{22} + \frac{(73 - 65)^2}{65} + \frac{(6 - 14)^2}{14}$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(-8)^2}{99} + \frac{(8)^2}{22} + \frac{(8)^2}{65} + \frac{(-8)^2}{14}$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{64}{99} + \frac{64}{22} + \frac{64}{65} + \frac{64}{14}$$

$$\chi^2 = 0.64 + 2.9 + 0.98 + 4.5$$

$$\chi^2 = 9.02$$

Step-4: Find the Degree of Freedom (df)

$$\chi^2 = (c - 1) (r - 1) \text{ (Degree of freedom with 0.05 significance value)}$$

$$\chi^2 = (2 - 1) (2 - 1)$$

$$\chi^2 = 1 \times 1$$

$$\chi^2 = \text{Degree of freedom with 0.05 significance value.}$$

$$\text{Value} = 3.841$$

Step-5: Result

As the calculated value is bigger than tabulated value, the **H₁** is accepted and the **H₀** is rejected.

6.2. HYPOTHESIS 2

6.2.1. Problem Analysis

H1 = A professional social workers can play a positive role in preventing the society from misdeed.

H0 = A professional social workers cannot play a positive role in preventing the society from misdeed.

6.2.2. Statistical Test

Chi-Square Formula: $\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(fo - fe)^2}{fe}$

Step-1: The Contingency Table

Play a positive role	Society from misdeed		Total
	Yes	No	
Yes	164	6	170
No	24	6	30
Total	188	12	200

Step-2 Listing fe in Contingency Table

Play a positive role	Society from misdeed		Total
	Yes	No	
Yes	164(160)	6(10)	170
No	24(28)	6(2)	30
Total	188	12	200

Step-3: Find $(fo - fe)^2$ Of Each Cell Of The Contingency Table

fe

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(164 - 160)^2}{160} + \frac{(24 - 28)^2}{28} + \frac{(6 - 10)^2}{10} + \frac{(6 - 2)^2}{2}$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(4)^2}{160} + \frac{(4)^2}{28} + \frac{(4)^2}{10} + \frac{(4)^2}{2}$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{16}{160} + \frac{16}{28} + \frac{16}{10} + \frac{16}{2}$$

$$\chi^2 = 0.1 + 0.57 + 1.6 + 8$$

$$\chi^2 = 10.27$$

Step-4 Find the Degree of Freedom (df)

$$\chi^2 = (c - 1)(r - 1) \text{ (Degree of freedom with 0.05 significance value)}$$

$$\chi^2 = (2 - 1)(2 - 1)$$

$$\chi^2 = 1 \times 1$$

$$\chi^2 = \text{Degree of freedom with 0.05 significance value.}$$

$$\text{Value} = 3.841$$

Step-5 Conclusion

As the calculated value is bigger than tabulated value, the H_1 is accepted and the H_0 is rejected.

7. Conclusion

In this paper researchers provided a brief description of the role of foreigner social workers from a historical context to the present. Next, they discuss about the relations with other foreigner professional social workers and their future opportunities, mostly they talking about the religious, social and political issues via social media. Side by side it is observed that mostly respondents want to move abroad for better opportunities and want to get new ideas and technologies from the foreign social workers.

We found that communicating and sharing information is the most important motivation for professional social workers to use social media in the area of education, research, management by sharing ideas and information with Facebook, WhatsApp and Gmail being most preferred social media sites for socio economic cultural political related issues.

8. Recommendations

1. Social media is an essential tool and easy technique for communication. In which it helpful for many professions for sharing ideas, information etc.
2. In social work profession it is observed that lots of social workers are connecting to each other for their better future and success of profession. In this scenario the institutions must be launched and strong the network between them.
3. According to the current research, the researchers found that there is a shortage of training programs between foreign social workers and professional social workers for their professional upgrading. The institutions should be creating a good training program for professional social workers.
4. All professional social workers should have access to a suitable platform where they may share their accomplishments and ideas and inspire one another. In the present research researchers found that due to lack of encouragement many professional social workers are not highlight their work.

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