

The Impact of Multi-method Field Training on the Practice Orientations of Social Work Students

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This article explores the issue of why social work programs in Israel and abroad have difficulty in creating graduates who are motivated to engage in both micro- and macro-level practice, rather than just in micro-level practice. The study presented in the article examined the influence of a unique fieldwork program that integrates fieldwork in social change organizations and fieldwork in micro-oriented field placements, in the initial practice orientations of first-year social work students. The findings show that over the first year of study, there was a drop in the number of students who were interested in engaging in macro-oriented practice and a rise in the number of those who preferred to deal with micro-level practice. Additionally, at the end of the year, most students felt less competent to engage in policy practice and in work related to social change. The article suggests several strategies that may enable social work programs to generate graduates who are willing and capable of engaging in both micro- and macro-level practice.

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