

Preface

Social Work is one of the professions that contribute to social change through intervention at individual, group, and community levels. Social Work Education strives to impart knowledge, skills, and values to Social Work trainees, which is reflected in their social work interventions. On the other hand, there are voluntary social workers who are likewise involved in social change and development through their intervention. They are engaged in the field of social work out of their own volition, sense of responsibility, care or compassion, without formal education or academic training in the social work discipline. The study. Therefore, adopts the theoretical framework of social constructivism, which provides a basis for studying the practices of trained and voluntary social workers in order to comprehend a holistic description of contemporary social work practices in Gujarat. However, it is limited to the social work practitioners engaged in the development sector and working as a founder or director of the organisation.

The thesis enquires the following research questions:

What are the lived experiences of trained and voluntary social workers engaged in the development sector? And What do their stories reveal about the components (knowledge, skills, value-ethics, commitment and motivation) of professional practices?

With its exploratory nature and narrative approach, the qualitative research methodology was employed to obtain context-sensitive data in the research study. It has collected the lived experiences of social work practitioners from both categories. The thesis is organised into five chapters. The first and second chapters provide context, theoretical framework and a literature review according to the themes. The third chapter describes the methodology employed for the study. The fourth chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of primary data collected for this study. The fifth chapter is the conclusion and provides recommendations.

The result of the study is reflected in the form of knowledge, skills, values, ethics, motivation and

commitment of the trained and voluntary social workers. It is evident in the narratives that trained and voluntary social workers possess several identical and distinct attributes in regard to components of professional practices. The faster pace of acquiring knowledge and skill is the strength of trained social workers. While solid commitment, virtues, and practice wisdom make practices of voluntary social workers effective and lead to the eventually acquiring the required knowledge. It highlights contemporary trends of social work practices, which are not limited to philanthropy in the cases of both trained and voluntary social workers.

It is vital for trained and voluntary social work practitioners to acquire all components of professional practices in order to conduct effective field interventions. This research study is a ground research study based on a smaller magnitude. However, it raises several questions and factors. It is essential to explore each attribute in relation to the training of the practitioners on a higher magnitude. In addition to the areas for further research, it recommends a discourse platform for the voluntary and trained social work practitioners for mutual benefits.