Importance of Social Work Research

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Many may wonder why social work research is needed in the profession. Well from texts it’s stated that social work research is “to increase your practice effectiveness by critically appraising research studies that can inform practice decisions.” Social work research can be a determining factor for creating new policies. This can harbor changes for the community being helped or even for society as a whole. While it is important to conduct research studies, it is also important to utilize the proper methods in order to create accurate information. As a researcher it is vital to receive information that can be backed up using evidence. Failure to conduct a proper research study can result in receiving false information, or even creating a policy that does not solve the problem to the research question. It is important for social workers to fully understand the importance of following the right methods. Overall research studies in social work practice are used to help clients, and to better understand problems that occur for the society. The overall benefits of research can occur when trying to create policies from the research conducted. They are also used to create appropriate solutions for problems that may occur with a setting that allows social workers to help others.

# Methodology

The methodology used while conducting a case study is very important for the development of the research. Method is best defined as the “the actual techniques and procedures used to gather and analyze data related to some research questions or hypothesis’ (2008).” Methods used in social work research are defined within two subgroups, qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative data is data that collects information from large groups. While Quantitative data is data that relies on numerical evidence. Both methods are important to follow when working on a case study, but both won’t be followed when conducting a case study. The difference depends on the topic being discussed, in a case study. Quantitative research is seen as more sustainable, because it allows for the more structured based evidence due to the numerical evidence that is given versus the limited data that comes with qualitative research. More qualitative research is usually done with research topics that hold sub-groups within the case study. These sub-groups can carry throughout many themes within the research study used. These groups can hold information pertaining to “statistical patterns and a statistical process that occurs within a study (2008).” Within a qualitative study as well, there can be the use of development of more structured research. An example of the use of qualitative data, can be when conducting a research that involves interview responses. Using the data from an interview is seen as the “focus” for the case study. However Quantitative Data is solely relying on numerical evidence. Quantitative data is also seen as rather “structured (2008).” These can be due to many factors that lie with quantitative data. The information given states that quantitative data is constructed through “positivism (2008)” and “scientific research methods (2008)”, this is why quantitative is deemed more reliable depending on the research topic. While using the methodology on quantitative data one can determine the importance by the research topic given. For example while researching for effective methods within a school system, numerical data can be used to infer certain things within the school. Overall methodology is determined by the question that is trying to be answered, and the appropriate uses of the tactics.

## Why is it important 1

Many wonder what research has to do with the social work profession. In essence the profession entails so much work than many people think. The use of research is vital when going into the social work profession. Research helps to highlight some underlying issues that can occur within a social work setting. The importance of following the methods and structure of research can be beneficial to the work as a whole. While conducting, social workers can help to create policies to help further generations or even help to improve policies already created. Edith Abbott a social worker who worked in Hull House in the Earl 1900’s, saw research as one of the few “foundations of social work (2004).” Stating that having a foundation in “research is needed for the sake of social work, and should be carried out by social workers (2004).” This is importance to show the social worker what can occur within the research process. It is necessary to operate in issues that involve social workers to have a hands on experience. It is better for professionals who view or experienced these issues to help and try to work on them. Social Work research has a numerous amount of purposes for example, one purpose of social work is to “promote social inclusion, change or justice (2004).” Another purpose of social work could be “to provide, impartial evidence for -decision making, which provides public accountability (2004).” This is important to provide social workers with focal points to focus on issues that rely on things occurring within their careers. While it is important to follow these purposes it is possible to think outside of the box to provide new ways social workers can create change. When searching for evidence to help with the changes within a social work case study, knowing what the research can do for the profession is very important understand. This duty can entail a numerous amount of research in order to properly understand. Social workers should make it their job to change the dynamic of the profession, as it can provide positive outcomes within society. The duty of conducting research is to find solutions for the current situations that can be done within the field of social work.

#### Struggles.

 Trying to maintain a level of significance while trying to create a question can be a struggle in the process of research. Most of the time research follows the principles that help to create just a view within social work research to allow the following customs that can create the challenging process. While creating a case study it’s important to remember the use that case studies can create in order to help current situations, or they can be used to be a creation of society. Then in order to change the views of spectators it is important to have evidence that supports the level of thinking that can be used to change the way research is viewed. Ways to create a solid research in a case study is to have a methodological way of thinking. To have this way of thinking is to “face reality as it is more than a single rule (2004).” This can be used to arrange the way certain guidance can change in factors of developing certain evidence in the research conducted.

##### Conclusion.

Overall the use of research within the social work profession helps to create the positivity that can help to create change within society. The importance of the research that occurs within these case studies helps to rationalize outcomes that can occur within our professions. From the household to the schools the use of having social research is to provide certain demographics with solutions that can be created within the changes of modern time.

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