

Final Exam

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SOCW-323-A: Human Behavior & Social Environment II

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May 6, 2021

Ethical Dilemma- John

As a future social worker, it will be my duty to be a lifelong learner and work with clients who may have opposing beliefs. I can see myself being challenged by this, but I have to reassure myself that social workers do not force their beliefs up others. In John's scenario, I do not think that he should have the freedom to deny services to people based on their sexual orientation.

There are many perspectives in which this dilemma can be viewed. From a business standpoint, denying services to a specific group of people may cause an uproar which will then result in a decline of sales and income for the restaurant owner, John. From a Christian lens, I can see how John may find discomfort in providing service to homosexuals. But I do not agree with the way he is projecting his discomfort to society. God has given every individual the freedom of choice, but some people feel the need to enforce certain behaviors upon others. The Bible must be accepted in its entirety, so this includes loving thy neighbor as thyself despite their conflicting lifestyles. Despite those two perspectives, John has the right to feel how he does towards homosexuality. By making a sign and placing it outside of his restaurant he is discriminating others by targeting a specific group of people.

If I was working with John in this scenario, I would try to understand why he has strong feelings towards homosexuals and feels the need to deny them services. Social workers are to help clients become a functional in society by providing them with resources that will improve their developmental capabilities and coping mechanisms. In the next few years I will eventually find myself engaging with a client whose beliefs do not resonate with mine. But I understand that it is not my job to judge others for their decisions and past mistakes.

Legalization of Physician-assisted Suicide

Physician-assisted suicide has been a debate for some time now. To an extent the United States has given its citizens freedom like the ability to create a DNR (do not resuscitate) order or abortion, so why not physician-assisted suicide? In reality, I think that the majority of people are afraid of death so uncomfortable topics like abortion and the death penalty are not given the chance. I think that physician-assisted suicide should be legal and have strong regulations.

A person who has a terminal illness should be able to decide how they would like to live out their last few moments. There are many steps that social workers take to give terminal ill patients the ability to plan for their end of life. “Hospice social workers help clients and their families navigate planning for end-of-life care; understand their treatment plan and be vocal about their needs; manage the stresses of debilitating physical illnesses, including emotional, familial and financial; overcome crisis situations; and connect to other support services” (Simmons University, 2020). By providing all of these services I think that physician-assisted suicide should be done as a last resort to patients who have tried several methods in attempt to make their experience a little better.

I can see how some practitioners would have an issue administering this option to patients. But in reality, we are all going to be encountering many conflicting scenarios where a patient or client may choose an option that we do not approve. As a future social worker, our job is to provide the resources needed to become self-sufficient and help clients be able to make their own decisions.

Six recommendations on how our society can increase support for the well-being of older adults.

Our society can make great contribution towards supporting the well-being of older adults. Over the years there has been reports on abuse and neglect towards the elderly. So, it is important that society does not overlook the aging population. (Zastrow et.al, 2019) makes some recommendations on what our society can do to increase the support for the well-being of older adults:

1. Social services in hospitals and nursing homes.

Involving more Social workers in these settings can help the elderly get their needs met. This role should not be limited to social workers, but community members can also support by visiting and volunteering at these centers to help engaging in social activities

2. Self-help and therapeutic groups.

Support groups can be an influential environment that can keep older adults feel heard. Relating to other group members can provide better coping methods for those who are transitioning into late adulthood or struggling to adjust to their new phase in life.

3. Advocacy.

Advocacy is needed to bring awareness towards valuing aging members of society. Many communities lack programs and resources to support the elderly. Advocating for this can help obtain funding to enact these programs.

4. Grief counseling.

People who have lived a long life may have experienced the loss of a loved one or are experiencing a loss of self-sufficiency. Adjusting to late adulthood can be lonely for some people and grief counseling can be helpful in managing those feelings.

5. Case management.

Case management can be beneficial to older adults who struggle with keeping up with their plan of care. It can also help them work on their goals and update their resources based on their needs.

6. Transportation and housing assistance.

Many older adults experience a decline in their ability to see, hear, and balance.

Adjusting to what their bodies are capable of can be frustrating so having transportation and assisted housing can be helpful to those who can no longer drive or need extra help on daily activities.

Overall, there are many other things that can be of help to the aging. But I believe that these six should be taken into consideration and be provided in communities that lack resources.

Reference

- Simmons University. (2020). *Hospice & Palliative Care Social Work: A Guide for 2021*. Online MSW Programs: A Comprehensive Directory of Accredited MSW Degrees. <https://www.onlinemswprograms.com/careers/hospice-palliative-social-work/#:~:text=Hospice%20social%20workers%20help%20clients,and%20connect%20to%20other%20support.>
- Zastrow, C., Kirst-Ashman, K. K., & Hessenauer, S. L. (2019). *Understanding human behavior and the social environment*. Cengage.