



BEST FIELD WORK PRACTICES: INCREASING UNIVERSAL HUMAN VALUES AMONG SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

MUNKIR JAINUL MUJAWAR

Ph.D. Research Scholar,
Dept. of Social Work,
Shivaji University,
Kolhapur (MS) INDIA

ABSTRACT

*Values in human life have an importance which is guidelines about noble life and directing the practical and ideals rules of human behaviour. Behaviour of humans is concerned with environment and the humans are the part and parcel of environment, hence education of universal human values related to environment is needed. Social Work has equal importance of theory and practice. Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune has started practice oriented field work in 2008-09 which is called **Issue Based Field Work**. The aim of this field work pattern is to increase both theoretical and practical knowledge of the student in social work. Since 2014 Vidyapeeth has selected the main theme for field work as '**Man, Health and Environment**' and students select different sub themes under this theme for field work with the intension to increase Universal Human Values among students and also within society by doing field work activities. The purpose of this paper is to define the basic concept of Issue Based Field Work and how it impact on social work students to increase the values and knowledge about environmental. This paper is based on secondary data. Through this field work practice students of social work can learn and implement the environment related social work values in society.*

Key Words: *Issue Based Field Work, Man, Health and Environment, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Students Social Worker, Human Values.*

INTRODUCTION

Ultimately environment is basis on the earth. That means environment is the main reason why there is life on earth and on the other hand there is no life found on other planets because of absence of such kind of environment. Environment includes all the living and non-living things surrounded by us. Living things includes animals, birds, marine species, microorganisms etc. and non-living things includes soil, air, water etc. in the environment all the things are organised in a very systematic

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manner. And to run the life on earth smoothly environment works in a cyclic order. Different kinds of cycles are there in the environment for instance the food cycle, the water cycle etc. but when we interfere in the environmental process all these cycles get disturb and damages the environment which in turn result in harm to life on earth.

Values in human life have an importance which is guidelines about noble life and directing the practical and ideal rules of human behaviour. Human is a child of environment. And he is the most powerful component of this environment hence education of universal human values related to environment is needed.

Social work has equal importance of theory and the practice. Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth (TMV), Pune has started practice oriented field work in 2008-09 which is called Issue based Field Work. The aim of this field work pattern is to increase both theoretical as well as practical knowledge of the social work students. Since 2014 TMV has selected the main theme for field work as “**Man, Health and Environment**” and students select different sub themes under this theme for field work with intension to increase Universal human values among them and also within society with innovative practices.

Need of Environmental Study:

As stated in the introduction environment is very valuable and need to protect. But due to increasing carnal hunger of human; he is terribly exploiting the environment. And if such exploitation of environment continues then end of this will be very hellish and indescribable. That’s why to inculcate need and importance of environment there is need for education in universal human values from environmental perspective.

Scope of the Study:

Scope of this paper is to study issue based field work pattern of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth done by M.S.W. 2nd year students (educational year 2014-15 and 2015-16) in relation to environmental issues as well as to study how social work values guides M.S.W. students to do issue based field work more effectively.

Significance of the Study:

Social work students will get conceptual clarity about issue based field work in environmental perspective. Social work students will get guideline in dealing with environment related issue.

Methodology:

This paper is based on secondary data which was collected from 2nd Year MSW student’s Presentations, diaries and reports rewritten in 2014-15 Year with the objectives of to describe the concept of issue based field work in environmental perspective, to explain how M.S.W. students learned the social work values in environmental perspective, to illustrate implementation of social

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work values using issue based field work, to express creative ideas that has been used by social work students to deal with environmental issues.. The concepts and best practices of student's social workers are describes in this paper for conceptual understanding.

Social Work Values and Issue Based Field Work:

According to National Association of Social Work describes the values of social work are as follows-

1. **Social service:** Social work is based on knowledge, skills and techniques. Regarding social service a person should be busy in offering services for mankind. For this noble work he should be knowledgeable and should have skills to relieve human sufferings. In the issue based field work students should understand human nature and help to need and neglected persons based on knowledge.
2. **Social justices:** Every person should be under one umbrella is the basic behind social work principles. As per our culture, constitution, heritage it is know that every person should be treated equal. Students of social work are expected to learn about verity of castes, religion, geographical area and background to work on it for equal opportunities. In the issue based field work student social workers were trend for justice for all and same skills for all the social groups. Social workers are expected to work for advocacy regarding justice for all.
3. **Dignity and worth:** Every person in their family, society, and workplace and in groups is definitely having some dignity. Student of social work should understand the personalities with due respect. Individual may be different with caste, nature, religion etc. Still every person should be equally respected with high dignity. The appreciation and offering dignity for an individual can be helpful for implementation of our social work action plans.
4. **Importance to human relations:** Healthy relationship can built healthy family and healthy nation. Students of social workers are expected to learn about bonding, relationships and social participation by which will help for development of the society. Man is a social animal were different people are living with different relationships like family relations, social relations, religious relations and group relations which can used for proper development. Student social worker should understand the variety of relationships to implement for social work practice.
5. **Integrity:** India is a nation of integrity there is variety of religions, castes, geographical area, education and gender. Were there should be deep understanding of these various nature of society. Students of social workers are expected to understand this integrity and implement their social work skills, tools, techniques, methods and principles and values as per their needs. These skills and techniques of social work can be different as per selected groups for social work. Hence techniques can be various as per variety of social needs.
6. **Competence:** It is expected that student social workers should update their knowledge and effectively implement as per need of society. They should gate advanced academic

knowledge, field work experience and understand social work principles and methods. Value based education is need of present society. There are many arising problems as per changing of life style. Hence students of social work should use alls resources, knowledge with their innovative ideas for the welfare and development of society.

Concept of Issue based field work:

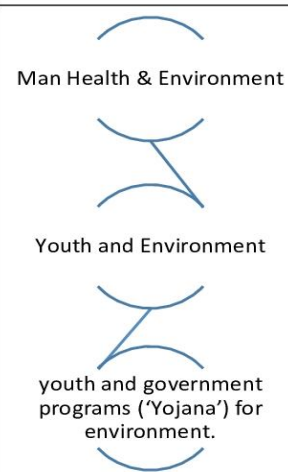
Field work plays an important role in social work interventions. It is called the soul of social work profession. Field work is the way of converting classroom training into actual practice.

Issue based field work is an individual or group effort which includes social work methods and techniques to carry issue based need assessment, planning & the intervention strategies to deal with issue. Issue based field work helps students to frame out social issues and develop intervention strategies through creative ideas.

Common Practices in Field Work:

Rallies, Poster Exhibition, Environmental Information Sheets, Street Plays, Tree Plantation Program, Essay Competition, Drawing Competition etc.

Best practices among different student groups

Group	Group no 1 (Edu. year 2015-16) Youth and Government Programs (Yojana) for Environment “How to Sew Attractive Cloth Bags Using Waste Cloth”
Group members	1. Miss. Priti Kulkarni 2. Mr. Sudhakar Bhadarge
Theme: Main Theme, Sub Theme and Activity	 <p>Man Health & Environment</p> <p>Youth and Environment</p> <p>youth and government programs ('Yojana') for environment.</p>
Locality	Kanadwadi
Address	Kanadwadi village is located in Miraj Tehsil of Sangli district in Maharashtra. it is situated 9km away from sub-district headquarter Miraj and 7km away from district headquarter Sangli.



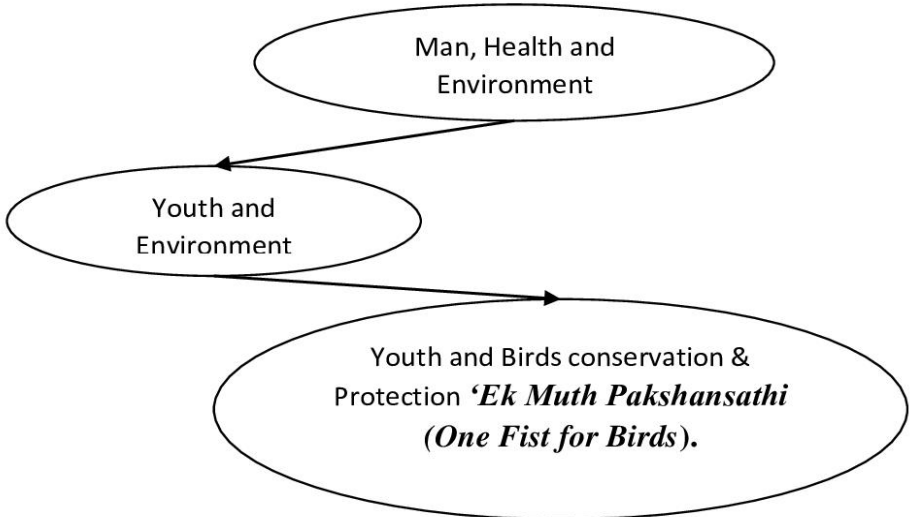
Group no 1: (Edu. year 2015-16) had been given sub-theme youth and environment under that the group has selected their key area which is youth and government programs ('Yojana') for environment. This group's aim is to make the people aware about environmental issues and let them know about the different programs designed to deal with such environmental issues at government level.

The government of Maharashtra has launched the '*Paryavaran Santulit Samrudha Gram yojana*' popularly known as **Eco Village program** to celebrate golden jubilee year of the state on 2nd October 2010 for facilitating sustainable village development. Eco Village program include rainwater harvesting, installing sewage network, harnessing renewable energy, conservation and protection of existing assets such as water bodies and forests along with this ban on plastic bags (thickness less than 50 micron). In respect to the ban on plastic bags to give substitute student social workers decided to arrange tailoring training program teaching different kinds of cloth bags.

There are six Self Help Groups running in Kanadwadi. Student social workers were approached to each group and they give information about Eco Village program to the SHG members. As well as they asked them to join free tailoring training program arranged at Kanadwadi. Most of the SHG shown good interest because this tailoring training program was different from the ordinary one. "**How to Sew Attractive Cloth Bags Using Waste Cloth**" was the theme decided for the programme. Approximately 20 Women from six SHG were attended the program.

All the participated women got basic idea about how to sew attractive & fashionable cloth bags using waste cloth. Most of the women replied that they got good knowledge and they can make money by selling such kinds of bags.

Through this activity it was possible to empower the women through the economic development. Every person is always a need of dignity and respect. The activity had given dignity and respect to women. It was possible to make good socialization and establish relationships among them. Student social worker were expected to understand gender equality, need of women, their status and their family by which it is possible to offer some new skills like counseling and changing life style.

Group	Group no 2 (Edu. year 2015-16) Youth and Birds conservation & Protection ' <i>Ek Muth Pakshansathi</i> ' (Translation: One Fist for Birds).
Group members	1. Mrs. Janaki Patil 2. Mr. Shrihari Mahindrakar
Theme: Main Theme, Sub Theme and Activity	 <pre> graph TD A([Man, Health and Environment]) --> B([Youth and Environment]) B --> C([Youth and Birds conservation & Protection '<i>Ek Muth Pakshansathi</i>' (One Fist for Birds).]) </pre>
Locality	Kirloskarwadi Vasahat
Address	Kirloskarwadi is situated in Sangli district, in Maharashtra state, India.

Group No 2: The second group from educational year 2015-16 had chosen '*Youth and Birds Conservation and Protection*' as a key area to do field work. Due to loss of natural habitat the hundreds of bird species have gone extinct in historical times. Pollution has led to serious declines in some species. Birds are also threatened by high rise buildings, communications towers, and wind farms. Loss of habitat laid to the bird food problem so to deal with this issue student social workers had decided to work on birds feeding problem.

Student social workers firstly approached to the Kirloskar High School and Jr. College. Student social workers took on lecture of all the students on 'Role of Youth in Birds Conservation and Protection' along with this student social workers announced one programme to solve bird food problem and the name of that program was '*Ek Muth Pakshansathi*' (Translation: One Fist for Birds). The theme of this programme is to collect a fist of grain from every student for once in month. The collected grain will be kept on terrace of high school building. This programme was implemented by student social workers successfully.

School and college students should be sensitized about nature care and love about birds. Every creation of the world equal right to live on earth which is very essential for ecological balance. Through this program value of love, equal rights, and responsibility of nature was executed. Student social workers had intensively planned to offer some new techniques like '*Ek Muth Pakshansathi*' (Translation: One Fist for Birds) which was very successful. Not only students the idea was strongly appreciated by teachers and parents.

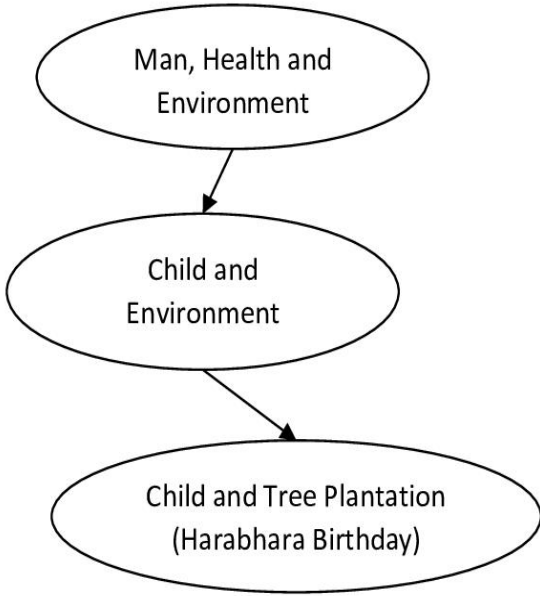


Group	Group no 2 (Edu. year 2015-16) Youth and Birds conservation & Protection (<i>make wooden homes for birds</i>)
Group members	1. Mrs. Janaki Patil 2. Mr. Mahendrikar
Theme: Main Theme, Sub Theme and Activity	<pre> graph TD A([Man, Health and Environment]) --> B([Youth and Environment]) B --> C([Youth and Birds conservation & protection (<i>make wooden homes for birds</i>)]) </pre>
Locality	Kirloskarwadi Vasahat
Address	Kirloskarwadi is situated in Sangli district, in Maharashtra state, India.

Group No 2: The same group have planned another programme to solve the bird’s shelter problem. Due to tremendously cutting of trees for wood, architectural use etc. birds nest are getting destructed. So to prevent such destruction of birds nest student social workers had decided to *make wooden homes for birds* with the use of waste wooden material that is available from broken benches, tables, chairs etc. in the Jr. College. Student social workers have arranged training program for the students in Kirloskar High School and Jr. College. Students in 11th are chosen for making wooden houses for birds. The training program was scheduled for a week in which many students participated with waste wooden material. Approximately 20 wooden homes were made during this programme. Students gave green and maroon colour to the homes to appear it more natural.

This program was conducted that with the intension of the protection of the nature through the conservation of birds. Every creature is always a need of security, shelter and satisfaction. Jr. College students were motivated to make wooden houses for birds. The intension behind the program is attraction of nature, helping a bird and thinking about protection of environment. Students social workers were had given a small skill based training to the students. This training was about human

and environmental values. This program was very successful and useful for student and teachers of the collage. Through this activity could implement innovative ideas through creativity.

Group	Group no 3 (Edu. year 2014-15) Child and Tree Plantation (Harabhara Birthday)
Group members	1. Rohini Waghmare 2. Dipali Repal
Theme: Main Theme, Sub Theme and Activity	 <pre> graph TD A([Man, Health and Environment]) --> B([Child and Environment]) B --> C([Child and Tree Plantation (Harabhara Birthday)]) </pre>
Locality	Kavathemahankal, Jath, Chinchni, Sangli
Address	All above places are located in Sangli district, in Maharashtra state, India.

Group no 3: Student of social worker had implemented many highlight programs which can guide for new generations. Students had organized need based survey at K. Mahankal, Jath, Chinchani and Sangli and found that draught are were green plantation was essential. As per demand of society student had planned for “Harabhara Birthday”.

The idea behind in very excellent every school going child was promoted for tree plantation on the occasion of their birthday and student were given responsibility of watering and care of the plant. Idea behind is student should think about nature, love and think about nature. Hence the name of the child is given to the plant. Student social workers had motivated youth Mandals, teachers and students. In this properly planned activity it was possible to make green environment value education. Through this program students were appreciated with dignity which helped to success the program.

In this activity student social workers had implemented their knowledge to enhance the society and Offer value based education for students and society.



CONCLUSION:

Students of social work have used the skills, techniques and knowledge of social work and also values of social work in different groups. Activity like Harabhara Birthday, wooden homes for birds, One Fist for Birds and women empowerment through vocational training are some of the activities with value education for new generation. Through this issue based field work it is expected by the students to train themselves with the advanced knowledge and techniques of understanding the human nature which can be helpful for welfare and development of the society. Student social workers had selected different groups for these activities like villages, schools students, womens and college students by which the they will able to understand variety of human nature to execute their knowledge regarding human values.

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