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70 Years

OF ADULT EDUCATION AT IBADAN (1949-2019)

Edited by:

Rashid Aderinoye
Deborah Egunyomi
Abidoeye Sarumi

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Social Work, Social Welfare and Adult Education in Ibadan

Olufunmilayo O. Folaranmi, Abiola A. Omokhabi and Olabisi Oladeji

Introduction

The Department has its roots in the Universities of Ibadan and Pennsylvania Link programme which started as far back as 1975. The efforts and contributions of the following trio cannot be over emphasised. They are Professor L.P. Shoemaker, Dean of the School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania from 1973 to 1985, Professor J.T. Okedara, Head of Department of Adult Education, University of Ibadan for several years and Dr. J.O. Ojesina, popularly referred to as the Father of Social Work in Africa. Together, they worked laboriously to develop the curriculum for the professional Master's programme in Social Work in Ibadan. Some Departments like Psychology, Preventive and Social Medicine, Psychiatric Unit of the College of Medicine, Guidance and Counselling, Special Education all contributed to the development of the curriculum.

Between 1985 and 1994, Professor Louise Shoemaker came from University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work (PennSSW) to Nigeria every summer to teach Social Welfare specialization courses in the Department of Adult Education. In 1992, two doctoral students from the Department of Adult Education proceeded to the Penn SSW now Penn School of Social Policy and Practice (Penn SP2) for 3 months as part of the staff development for the new Social Work Unit. Also in 2003, another academic staff from Department of Adult Education, who happened to be one of the authors of this paper visited Penn SSW for 3 months, under the University of Ibadan/MacArthur staff development programme, where she gained hands-on experience in school of social work and audited practice classes on child and adolescent social work.

Origin of Social Work at the University of Ibadan

The Department of Social Work originated from the University of Ibadan and Pennsylvania Link programme, which started in February

1981 and was signed in May 1981, by the authorities of the two universities. The Master of Social Work programme started as a unit in the Department of Adult Education in 1990/91 academic session. It is a multi-disciplinary programme with a national outlook. It is designed to advance and apply knowledge in social work in the following areas where need exists nationwide:

1. Health Social Work (General and Psychiatry).
2. Social Welfare (Schools, Correctional Institutions, Courts, Family Welfare among others).
3. Community Development
4. Industrial Social Welfare.

In September 1999, the Social Work programme, which started as a unit under Adult Education Department, metamorphosed into a full-fledged Department, whereby all the courses taken outside the department were adjusted and modified appropriately and approved by the University of Ibadan Senate. The number of students who seek admission into the Department of Social Work have been on the increase over the years.

Adult education inspires a desire for change in the lifestyle of its beneficiaries. This is one of the many definitions of adult education that has been embraced globally. Incidentally, this definition was offered by Julius Nyerere of Tanzania who successfully used adult education to transform his nation, Tanzania. Adult Education has a transformative effect on the citizens of any nation which is committed to it. (Mezirow, 2017).

What is Social Work? Definitions and History

Social work is an academic discipline and profession that concerns itself with individuals, families, groups and communities in an effort to enhance social functioning and overall wellbeing. Social functioning is the way by which people perform their social roles, and the structural institutions that are provided to sustain them. Social work applies social science, methods, such as sociology, psychology, political science, public health, community development, law, and economics, to engage with client systems, conduct assessments, and develop interventions to

solve social and personal problems; and to bring about social change. Social work practice is often divided into micro-work, which involves working directly with individuals or small groups; and macro-work, which involves working with communities, and - within social policy - fostering change on a larger scale.

The social work industry developed in the 19th century, with some of its roots in voluntary philanthropy and in grassroots organizing. However, responses to social needs had existed long before then, primarily from private charities and from religious organizations. The effects of the Industrial Revolution and of the Great Depression of the 1930S placed pressure on social work to become a more defined discipline.

Social work is a broad profession that intersects with several disciplines. Social work organizations offer the following definitions”:

Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. (International Federation of Social Workers) 2014.

Social work is a profession concerned with helping individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance their individual and collective well-being. It aims to help people develop their skills and their ability to use their own resources and those of the community to resolve problems. Social work is concerned with

individual and personal problems but also with broader social issues such as poverty, unemployment, and domestic violence. (Canadian Association of Social Workers) 2014

Social work practice consists of the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques to one or more of the following ends: helping people obtain tangible services; counseling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in legislative processes. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behaviour; of social and economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interaction of all these factors. (National Association of Social Workers). 2014

“Social workers work with individuals and families to help improve outcomes in their lives. This may be helping to protect vulnerable people from harm or abuse or supporting people to live independently. Social workers support people, act as advocates and direct people to the services they may require. Social workers often work in multi-disciplinary teams alongside health and education professionals. British Association of Social Workers.

The practice and profession of social work have a relatively modern and scientific origin, and it is generally considered to have developed out of three strands. The first was individual casework, a strategy pioneered by the Charity Organization Society (COS), in the mid- 19th century, which was founded by Helen Bosanquet and Octavia Hill in London, England. Most historians identified COS as the pioneering organization of the social theory that led to the emergence of social work as a professional occupation. COS had its main focus on individual casework. The second was social administration, which included various forms of poverty relief, ‘relief of paupers’. Statewide poverty relief could be said to have its roots in the English Poor Laws of the 17th century, but was first systematized through the efforts of the Charity Organization Society. The third consisted of social action, rather than engaging in the resolution of immediate individual

requirements, the emphasis was placed on political action working, through the community and the group to improve their social conditions and thereby alleviate poverty.

This approach was developed originally by the Settlement House Movement. This was accompanied by a less easily defined movement; the development of institutions to deal with the entire range of social problems. All had their most rapid growth during the nineteenth century, and laid the foundation basis for modern social work, both in theory and in practice.

Professional social work; originated in 19th century England, and had its roots in the social and economic upheaval, wrought by the Industrial Revolution, in particular the societal struggle, to deal with the resultant mass urban-base poverty and its related problems. Because poverty was the main focus of early social work, it was intricately linked with the idea of charity work.

Other important historical figures that shaped the growth of the social work profession are: Jane Addams, who founded the Hull House in Chicago and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931; Mary Ellen Richmond, who wrote *Social Diagnosis*, one of the first social work books to incorporate law, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, and history; and William Beveridge, who created the social welfare state, framing the debate on social work within the context of social welfare provision.

Relationship between Adult Education and Social Work

The Department of Adult Education has produced the pioneer academic staff for the Social Work programme which is very commendable. As a matter of fact, there are 8 academic staff in social work and 6 of them have their backgrounds and doctoral degrees from Adult Education, hence, all the Heads of Department of Social Work from inception to date are products of Adult Education with the exception of the time when the 4 Deans Nos 2-5 acted as Heads of Department, pending the time academic staff would be ready to take on headship positions.

The table below shows the details of Past and Present Heads of Department

1.	Professor E.E. Osuji (Pioneer HOD)	1999-2001
2.	Professor Oluremi Ayodele Bamisaiye	2001-2003
3.	Professor D.F. Elaturoti	2003-2005
4.	Professor G.O. Alegbeleye	2005-2007
5.	Professor Morayo Atinmo	2007-2008
6.	Dr. J.K. Mojinyinola	2008-1010
7.	Dr. Olufunmilayo O. Folaranmi	2010-2012
8.	Dr. T.G. Adegoke	2012-2014
9.	Dr. E.M. Ajala	2014-2016
10.	Dr. Yemisi L. Olaleye	2016-2018
11.	Prof. T.G. Adegoke	2018-to date

As seen from the table above, all the Heads of Department from 1, 6-11 are all Adult Education graduates the former Deans from Number 2 to 5 served on acting capacities. Dr. Julius Ojesina who was one of the founding fathers had worked as a professional psychiatric social worker at the University College Hospital, Ibadan for 35 years before he obtained his Ph.D in Adult Education, specializing in Social Welfare. Dr. Ojesina coordinated the activities of the Social Work programme in the Department of Adult Education before he retired successfully in the year 2001.

The role of the social worker in the area of illiteracy reduction rate in Nigeria, cannot be over-emphasised. Some of them are listed: social workers help raise awareness to realize, potentials they help formulate youth groups, they are involved in administration, they broker partnerships on skill, based training and curriculum development.

Social workers meet the different grassroot groups to sensitise and raise their awareness on the importance and need to obtain basic literacy

education which will in turn enhance their productivity, boost their social status and enhance their political participation.

Social workers also formulate youth groups, social work practice generally takes place within the context of organisations and communities which are made up of people that have rules and structures to achieve specified goals. The groups that are formulated within the organisations can be organised into literacy classes or after having identified the different education needs of the groups, where the social worker plays the role of educator or adult educator, and or link the group with the relevant adult literacy programmes.

Social workers organize capacity building training programmes for teachers (facilitators) of adult literacy centres and collaborate with relevant adult literacy organisations.

Social workers in the broker role, link clients with needed resources and services, amongst other rules and functions. Social workers assist adults to enhance their learning. Doubtless, many adult learners are either family men/women or employees, and in many cases, fall into both categories. As a result, they have many responsibilities that must be balanced against the demands by learning. The inability to create this balance often results in conflicts and crises in families and workplaces and subsequently affects the learning process. Social workers therefore provide counselling services to these adults and help them develop time management practices, as well as stress management skills. Beyond the classroom, many adult learners are faced with various challenges that are family or workplace related. Such situations if unattended to, can result in depression and lack of motivation to continue learning. In this regard, social workers assist these learners in solving their problems and developing practical strategies with which they can improve their situations. It is on this note that, we call for stronger relationship between Adult Education and Social Workers in the directions.

Social workers and adult educators should collaborate in massive mass literacy campaign and adult education programmes in Nigeria to reduce illiteracy rate in Nigeria.

Social workers and adult educators should also work together on how to assess individual learning styles and ways to teach adults, as they do this, they should promote and reward successful completion of a stage in literacy education and encourage participants to go on to the next stage on the education ladder and never to relent in their education pursuits.

Our Strengths and Future Directions

Students desiring to benefit from the programmes are usually more numerous than envisaged, hence a continuous need for new programmes have been identified. In response to these, there have been new programmes since Social Work became a full-fledged department in 1999. At present, in addition to the professional Master's Degree Programme (MSW), the Department also offers the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work (PGDSW) which was approved and commenced in 2003/2004 session. The Bachelors and Diploma programmes (B SW) and (Dip. SW) was approved and commenced in 2008/2009 through Distance Learning modes. The Curriculum for Academic Master's Degree, M.Phil/Ph.D. and Ph.D. programmes in Social Work is also ready awaiting approval at the Faculty of Education Curriculum Committee before going to the Postgraduate College and Senate of the University of Ibadan for final approval and commencement.

The Department of Social Work still maintains a very cordial relationship with Penn School of Social Policy and Practice. There is no doubt that, the linkage continues to foster cross fertilization of ideas and good practices of academic members of staff of both institutions.

Presently, alumnus and faculty of Penn SW send books and journals to stock the library. The Department of Social Work University of Ibadan on its own part, is also making some efforts to have a good library and efficient Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for effective teaching and learning. Hence, the need to strengthen the existing linkage programme to enable the Department stock up-to-date books, journals and periodicals, as well as collaboration with more universities.

In the nearest future, the Department will lay emphasis on multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research. Research activities in the Department of Social Work, usually focus on areas which are problem-solving for the improvement and total well-being of the University community and of the larger society. In view of the globalization of standards in social work practice, the department desires, very strongly, to conduct joint research with other international partners as part of the contribution to meet the University's vision for 21st Century.

In its march over the years, the Department has provided professional postgraduate training in social work to numerous students which is comparable in standard to what is being provided in other schools of social work around the world.

The academic staffs are duly registered with both national and international associations and participate actively in their activities. They participate in seminars, workshops and conferences organised by governments and NGOs on contemporary social problems and organise training programmes for specific target groups. It is worthy to note that, from the programme, students secure employment with ease across national and international job markets.

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