
Unpacking cultural compatibility and professional practice in an African contextual lens

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Abstract

The cultural compatibility and professionalism approach allows the African social workers to integrate cultural humility into cultural knowledge and practice when delivering services to individual families, groups, and communities facing pressing needs and oppressions. Although the practice of social work in Africa has recently attained momentum, the effectiveness of its service delivery method as it relates to client-centeredness remains unquestionable. Therefore, this conference section introduces the cultural compatibility and professionalism practice approach, unpacks its meaning in the African contextual lens, and highlights the essentiality of its adoption in promoting just and client-centred practice. The sanctions of the social work profession to its members to exhibit cultural competency and humility pivots the relevancy of this conference topic to African social work practice. The profession of social work underscored the importance of its members to be culturally competent and humble to enable them to embrace and effectively work with individual families, groups, and communities from diverse and dynamic cultures, particularly the vulnerable populations (National Association of Social Workers 2018). Social workers participating in this conference session will gain cultural knowledge and skills that would allow them to improve their ability to promote, engage and encourage help-seeking among the people they serve. The conference section proposed presentation will define and describe the "cultural compatibility and professionalism" approach, its components, and the importance of viewing African social work practice through African-centered theoretical lenses. It will also discuss the "cultural compatibility and professionalism" application process during the assessment and service delivery intervention plan.

Keywords: cultural compatibility, Africa, social practices

