

Research on the cultivation of social work professional practice ability under emergency management

Liu Yanyan

School of Sociology, Sanya University, Sanya City, Hainan Province, 572022, China
2294590201@qq.com

Abstract: This study deconstructs the composition of social work professional practical ability, puts forward specific ability requirements for emergency situations, and reveals the importance of social work professional in responding to public emergencies. In view of the practical ability gap found, this paper puts forward a series of ability training strategies and methods, including the construction of education and training system and the application of simulation exercises and case teaching, emphasizing the close combination of theory and practical skills. This study provides a theoretical and practical framework for the training of professional competence in emergency management in the field of social work, which is of great significance for improving the response and intervention ability of social work talents in the case of disasters and crises.

Keywords: social work; Emergency management; Practical ability training

1. Introduction

In 2003, The State Council issued and implemented the Regulations on Emergency Response to Public Health Emergencies. The establishment of the Regulations indicates that a sound, scientific and complete emergency management system has become an important issue at present, and the construction of emergency teams and the training of emergency personnel are key elements for the successful completion of the project. Emergency management is an important part of modern social governance. There is an urgent need for social response to emergencies. Social work, as an important field of professional practice, shoulders the function of coordinating resources, supporting social recovery and promoting social harmony. In the context of emergency management, the training of social work professionals is particularly important. Training objectives should be clear about the role of social work professionals in the emergency management system, including crisis intervention, resource allocation, community mobilization and psychological support and other specific tasks.^[1]

At the level of concrete implementation, the training of social work professional practical ability should be combined with the specific needs of emergency management to design the course content. For example, special courses on psychological first aid should be set up to teach basic theories and skills related to post-disaster psychological aid, and practical exercises should be conducted through situational simulation to improve students' coping skills and practical operation ability. At the same time, strengthen the combination with the government, non-governmental organizations and communities, through practical projects such as post-disaster support and reconstruction work, to provide students with a real platform for work, and promote the transformation of theoretical knowledge into practical ability.^[2]

The training of social work practice ability in the emergency management environment should not only pay attention to the transfer of theoretical knowledge, but also emphasize the promotion of practical ability, so as to contribute professional strength to the improvement of China's emergency management system and the harmonious development of society.

2. The role of social work in emergency management

In the Notice on Carrying out National Statistics on Human Resources for Social Work Professionals (2016) No. 151 issued in 2016, The relevant fields of social work professionals include social welfare, social assistance, poverty alleviation, charity, community construction, marriage and family, mental health, rehabilitation of the disabled, education and counseling, employment assistance,

employee services, crime prevention, drug and drug rehabilitation, treatment and education, population and family planning, emergency response and other 16 items, including emergency response. In emergency management, social work plays a vital role, which is mainly reflected in the following aspects.^[3]

2.1 Emergency preparedness stage

Before a disaster, the primary task of social workers is to conduct risk assessment and design preventive measures. The core of this stage is to collect data and information about disaster risk through comprehensive community surveys, identify potential risk factors, and gain insight into vulnerable groups within the community. Social workers need to work closely with community members, local government and other relevant agencies to ensure the accurate transmission of information and the effective allocation of resources. Through fine-grained analysis, social workers are able to design targeted intervention strategies based on the needs and characteristics of different groups. For example, for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children or people with disabilities, social workers can design emergency shelter, medical support, food and water distribution plans in advance. At the same time, social workers can engage community members in the risk assessment process, increase their awareness of disaster response, and improve their self-rescue capacity through education and training. In addition, social workers are responsible for coordinating resources and efforts to ensure that different levels of government departments, volunteer organizations and non-governmental organizations can work together to improve the emergency preparedness of the community.^[4]

2.2 Emergency Response phase

In the emergency response phase after a disaster, social workers play a vital role, especially in providing psychological support and emotional reassurance. Social workers help post-disaster victims cope with trauma and reduce their feelings of psychological stress and anxiety by applying psychosocial intervention models, such as crisis intervention models and restorative psychotherapy. These interventions not only help to restore individual mental health, but are also able to facilitate the rebuilding of social support systems in post-disaster groups. Social workers will provide one-on-one psychological counseling according to the needs of individuals to help them understand and accept the trauma experienced after the disaster, while promoting mutual assistance and communication among victims through group counseling and support groups. These activities can effectively alleviate the sense of isolation of victims and enhance their sense of social support. Social workers also work closely with medical and mental health professionals to ensure that post-disaster psychological and emotional support services are systematized and professionalized. In addition, social workers are involved in the dissemination of information and crisis communication to ensure that community members receive timely information about disasters, assistance, and safe havens to avoid information blind spots and confusion.^[5]

2.3 Emergency reconstruction phase

The emergency reconstruction stage is an important part of post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, and the work of social workers in this stage is crucial. Social workers are involved in the design and implementation of social support programs to help communities return to normal life. This process often involves helping affected residents obtain financial compensation and social services, ensuring that they can rebuild their lives with effective assistance and support after losing their homes and possessions. Social workers draw up individualized service plans according to the specific needs of the community, such as providing vocational training, psychological counseling, health services and social adjustment training. These measures not only help those affected regain their footing, but also enhance their self-confidence and sense of social integration. Social workers also play a coordinating role in ensuring the fair distribution of all types of resources and avoiding inequities in the distribution of resources, especially in areas such as financial compensation, social security and public services. By working with governments, ngos and volunteer groups, social workers are able to drive the implementation of policies to ensure that support reaches everyone affected by disasters. At the same time, social workers promote the building of social capital in the community, promote mutual assistance and cooperation among community members, and enhance the social resilience and self-resilience of the entire community.^[6]

3. Requirements for social workers' professional practice ability in emergency situations

The basic theory of emergency management covers a number of core concepts, including risk analysis, emergency plans, response mechanisms, recovery strategies, etc. In emergency situations, social work professionals are required to have a range of specialized competencies to respond to crises and emergencies.

3.1 Capacity for crisis intervention

Crisis intervention ability is one of the core competencies of social workers in emergency management, which requires social workers to quickly identify crisis signals, accurately assess individuals' psychological states and needs, and respond in time through effective resource allocation. The cultivation of this ability not only depends on the mastery of theoretical knowledge, but also needs to strengthen practical experience through simulation exercises and case analysis. In the simulation exercise, social workers should make a quick judgment in various emergency situations, clarify the level and urgency of the crisis, and then formulate appropriate coping strategies. In this way, social workers can be more confident and calm when the real crisis occurs, and achieve rapid response and timely intervention, so as to reduce the negative impact of the crisis on individuals and groups. In practice, social workers also need to master assessment tools and coping methods to ensure the scientific and efficient intervention measures.^[7]

3.2 Communication and coordination ability

In the process of emergency management, social workers must have a high degree of communication and coordination ability, and be able to communicate effectively with different entities such as government agencies, medical departments, and community organizations in emergency situations. The rapid communication of information is essential, and accurate and clear communication of information ensures the effective coordination of resources and efforts of all parties. Social workers need to master a structured communication model to ensure that information is delivered concisely and without misunderstandings or omissions. In addition, social workers must be able to deal with complex multi-stakeholder relationships in the coordination process, ensure smooth collaboration between different agencies and people, and make quick decisions and adjustments in the face of unexpected situations. This ability not only enhances the work efficiency of the emergency team, but also effectively improves the emergency response speed of the community or the affected group.^[8]

3.3 Resource integration capability

Resource integration ability is a key skill of social workers in emergency management. Especially in the face of complex emergency events, social workers need to be able to quickly identify and integrate various available resources, including human, material and financial resources. In this process, social workers need to draw up a list of resources to ensure that emergency resources can be efficiently and accurately deployed to where they are needed. Resource integration is not only the mobilization of material assistance, but also includes the support of various parties such as volunteers, community support and government funds. Social workers should use assessment tools (such as SWOT analysis) to accurately assess available resources and understand their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to help formulate the best course of action. In addition, social workers need to maintain close contact with non-governmental organizations and civil volunteer groups to ensure that all resources are maximized to guarantee the smooth running of emergency operations.^[9]

3.4 Flexibility in response

In emergency management, social workers must be flexible and able to quickly adjust strategies in fast-changing crisis situations, ensuring that interventions are always matched to the actual situation. Being flexible is more than just a technical response; it requires psychological adaptability and situational awareness. Social workers should flexibly adjust their leadership style and team management style according to the progress of events and the performance of the team, so as to ensure that the team can quickly adapt to changes and maintain efficient operation. By introducing the theory of situational leadership, social workers can adjust their leadership style according to different situational needs, for example, adopting directive leadership in the early stage of crisis and shifting to supportive leadership in the recovery stage. Through regular capacity assessment and practice, social

workers can better cope with future uncertainties, maintain a high degree of adaptability and response speed, and ensure the continuity and efficiency of emergency response.^[10]

3.5 Risk assessment and management ability

Social workers must have effective risk assessment and management skills in emergency management, which can help them identify potential risks in advance, assess the impact of disaster events, and develop scientific response plans. Social workers need to master basic risk assessment models (such as risk matrices), identify risks that are likely to have a significant impact on communities or individuals, and develop response strategies based on their severity and probability of occurrence. Risk assessment is not only the prediction of natural disasters, but also the assessment of social, psychological, economic and other aspects. In this process, social workers should establish sound risk management processes, including risk identification, assessment, monitoring and response. Through this process, social workers can effectively control risks within an acceptable range, reduce the damage caused by emergencies to communities and individuals, and ensure the smooth progress of post-disaster recovery work.

3.6 Psychological counseling ability

In emergency situations, social workers also need to have the professional ability of psychological counseling to help victims relieve psychological pressure and restore normal emotional state. Psychological counseling is not only a simple response to post-traumatic stress, but also through professional intervention techniques to help the victims understand and adjust their emotions and reduce the psychological burden. Social workers need to master the basic skills of psychological intervention through professional training (such as psychological first aid training), especially in the face of traumatic events, to provide cognitive behavioral therapy or situational intervention strategies in a timely manner to help high-risk groups to carry out psychological counseling. Social workers also need to provide one-to-one psychological support based on the psychological needs of the victims to ensure that each individual can recover their mental health as soon as possible after the disaster. In addition, social workers play an important role in group counseling and support groups to promote mutual support and emotional exchange among disaster-affected groups, thereby strengthening the collective cohesion of the community. In order to cultivate the above abilities, hospitals, schools and communities jointly carry out cross-border cooperation and introduce a variety of simulated situations for comprehensive training. In addition, online training and case sharing are conducted on digital platforms to improve the comprehensive emergency response ability of social workers. To ensure that social workers are able to demonstrate effective professionalism and work ability in complex and changing emergency situations.

4. Capacity development strategies and methods

In order to effectively train emergency social work talents, it is necessary to build a perfect talent education and training system. Colleges and universities and professional training institutions should offer courses on the combination of emergency management and social work, and strengthen the combination of theoretical study and practical operation. The course content should cover crisis intervention, psychological counseling, resource integration, risk assessment and other aspects of knowledge, combined with case analysis and simulation exercises to enhance students' practical ability. At the same time, flexible teaching models, such as blended teaching that combines online and offline, should be promoted to ensure that students can practice and test themselves adequately in a variety of situations. In addition, disaster emergency drills and practical projects should be organized regularly, and senior social workers and experts should be invited to give guidance, so as to improve students' comprehensive emergency response ability. Through diversified training methods, the sustainable development of emergency social work professionals is promoted, and their professional level in responding to disasters and emergencies is improved.

4.1 Establish a demand-oriented education and training system

Under the background of emergency management, the construction of education and training system of social work major should focus on the improvement of practical ability and form a comprehensive system combining theory and practice. First of all, starting from the course design, it is

necessary to set up three modules: basic theoretical courses (such as emergency management theory, crisis intervention, etc.), practical courses (such as internship, simulation exercise), and professional skills training (such as psychological counseling, communication skills).

Secondly, the education and training system should strengthen the cooperation with emergency management departments and relevant institutions at all levels, establish a mechanism of industry-university-research integration, and realize resource sharing. It is suggested that industry forums and seminars should be organized regularly, and industry experts should be invited to serve as part-time lecturers, and the trainees should complete industry practice. In addition, a variety of emergency simulation exercises will be carried out jointly with local emergency management agencies to enhance students' actual response ability and teamwork awareness.

Finally, the construction of education and training system needs to take into account the cross-application of sociology and psychology, and strengthen the psychological quality education of students. It is suggested to introduce the mental health education course; To carry out psychological counseling and stress management skills training, in order to achieve the improvement of mental toughness. This series of measures aims to cultivate all-round social work talents to adapt to the complex emergency management environment and enhance their practical ability.

4.2 Explore a teaching-oriented teaching model that combines research and training

Traditional teaching pays too much attention to theory and neglects the cultivation of students' comprehensive quality. Emergency management is a new subject field, and emergency social workers need a lot of innovative research and practical training in study, work and practice in the process of exploring discipline construction.

First of all, simulation exercises and case teaching are important means to improve the practical ability of social work professionals, which can effectively enhance students' emergency response ability, on-site assessment ability and decision-making ability. The simulation exercise adopts the scenario method to train students' practical operation ability by using virtual cases and simulated roles in a variety of emergency situations. When designing, it is necessary to consider a variety of emergency scenarios, such as natural disasters, public health events and social emergencies, to ensure wide coverage. Case teaching adopts the problem-driven learning method, selects typical social work cases, involves stakeholders in real situations, and focuses on the process of analyzing problems and formulating response strategies. Cases cover a wide range of emergency situations, ensuring that students can learn in a variety of contexts. This approach emphasizes active thinking and interactive discussion among participants, and promotes teamwork and communication skills through group discussions. Through the above practical methods, the complementary simulation exercises and case teaching provide a comprehensive and real practical environment for social work students, helping them to skillfully apply the knowledge they have learned, make rapid and effective responses when facing complex social problems, and improve their overall professional quality and professional ability.

Secondly, the off-campus cooperative training base of industry-university-research should be established. Emergency social work is an interdisciplinary and practical professional direction. Relying only on university resources and without the support of external resources, it is difficult to cultivate compound and applied talents to meet the current social needs. In the process of personnel training, we should attach importance to the link of external resources. Through the cooperation between colleges and universities, government departments, enterprises and public institutions, and social organizations, we should build a cooperative training base for emergency social work, create opportunities for students to practice in emergency management departments at all levels during holidays, and improve students' skills in crisis response and emergency response. Through the establishment of a multi-party cooperation mechanism, a close relationship between the government, schools and social organizations should be formed. Under this framework, the deep integration of theoretical knowledge and social practice will be promoted, and opportunities for cross-border cooperation will be increased through regular interdisciplinary seminars and joint exercises.

5. Conclusions

In emergency management, the cultivation of social work professional practice ability is particularly important. Through the combination of theory and practice, the coping ability of social workers in emergencies can be systematically improved, which can effectively promote social stability

and recovery. Specific measures such as conducting practical training courses on emergency management, setting up case analysis groups, and field exercises can significantly strengthen the actual combat ability of social work professionals. The implementation of training methods based on scenario simulation can improve the students' ability to respond to changes and make decisions. In practical cases, multiple rounds of simulation exercises are set for various emergencies such as fire, earthquake and social unrest. The design of the training course covers multiple dimensions such as emergency plan preparation, resource integration and crisis communication to ensure the comprehensiveness of the training.

In future research, further exploration of the role of social work in emergency management will be the focus of future research. Comprehensively analyze the characteristics of emerging social problems and crisis events, and build a multi-level and multi-field emergency management training system to adapt to the changing social environment and needs. At the same time, we should promote the guarantee and support of social work funds at the legislative level, so as to ensure that professionals can play the best role in emergency situations. Scientific, systematic and continuous capacity development will provide a solid foundation for the development of social workers in the field of disaster response and social governance.

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