



UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

FIRST SEMESTER MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, NOVEMBER 2019

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

COURSE CODE: SWK231

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN SOCIAL WORK
PRACTICE**

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

Instructions

1. The paper consists of six questions
2. Answer any three questions
3. All questions carry equal marks

Candidates may complete the front cover of their answer book when instructed by the Chief Invigilator and sign their examination attendance cards but must not write anything else until the start of the examination period is announced.

No electronic devices capable of storing and retrieving text, including electronic directories and any form of foreign material may be used while in the examination room.

Special Requirements

None

Additional Material (s)

None

DO NOT turn examination paper over until instructed to do so.

QUESTION 1

Case study: Protecting a family secret

Basanti Madurai came happily to the United States from southern India after marrying a man who claimed to be an engineer, but who was actually employed at a local gas station. She was only slightly familiar with English and unacquainted with U.S. culture when she joined her husband in her in-laws' home. Her new family forbade her to make friends. Moreover, she was almost never allowed to leave their home, where she was expected to stay and take care of their two small children. When her husband discovered shortly after they were married that she had brought less money to the marriage than he expected, he started verbally abusing her. Gradually, he also became physically abusive. Her in-laws were aware of his behavior but considered it acceptable and appropriate.

On her occasional walks in the neighborhood, Basanti was always under the gaze of friends and relatives. However, she managed to meet one young Indian woman at a local grocery. After a time, she began to trust her new friend and confided that she was practically a prisoner in her home and was being beaten by her husband.

On her own initiative, this new friend spoke to Ellen Ashton, a social worker for a family service agency that provides a mutual support group for South Asian women. The friend asked Ellen to speak to Basanti. When Ellen had an opportunity, she struck up a conversation with Basanti, telling her about her agency's support group. Basanti claimed that all was well at home. She added that she would not join such a group because she did not want to bring shame on her own family in India or on her husband's family. But she also mentioned that she wanted to try to make a better life for herself, her husband, and their children.

Discuss the following questions based on the case above

- a) Who is the client in this case and what professional obligations does the social worker owe this client?
- b) Identify the ethical dilemmas presented in the case above
- c) Where will the social worker find help with the ethical aspects of this social work practice problem?
- d) How can the social worker decide what course of action to follow?

QUESTION 2

Case Study: Hurricane Katrina, The Gillette Family, And Choices

For days, all one heard was that hurricane Katrina was on its way. Social worker Sharon Gillette's husband was in Seattle on business and unable to find a flight to return to New Orleans. She could not decide whether to leave or to stay because her house was on higher ground. People in New Orleans and throughout the region were struggling with preparations for the expected storm. Sharon's child care provider, Mrs. Carlyle, called to say she was frightened and would not come the next morning because she had found a ride out of town with her son and

his family. With her husband still away, Sharon finally decided it would be best for her and her children to leave new Orleans and stay with family in Texas until the storm passed.

Sharon phoned her supervisor to let him know that she would be leaving New Orleans and would return as soon as possible after the storm passed. However, her supervisor informed her that she was being asked to report immediately to the civil emergency center in the Louisiana superdome to assist the many people—both able-bodied and those with physical and other challenges—who would be forced to stay in new Orleans because they did not have a way to evacuate. People were confused and anxious; many were trying to contact loved ones.

Based on the case above discuss the following questions:

- a) What should Sharon do?
- b) What other ethical issues does this case pose?
- c) Where in the code of ethics can this social worker find help with the ethical aspects of emergency situations such as floods, hurricanes, outbreaks of violence, and war?
- d) How will the social worker decide what course of action to follow?

QUESTION 3

The legal principle of privileged communication is based on the privacy value and the ethical principle of confidentiality. Discuss using examples.

QUESTION 4

Social workers who want to protect themselves properly should know what is involved in malpractice. By learning how liability develops, they can take pre-cautions that will reduce the hazards they may face (Corey, Corey and Callanan, 2003). Using examples to support your views.

QUESTION 5

Case study: Serena Adams has herpes

At the Jeanette April residential treatment center for teenagers with emotional problems, the staff became aware that 15-year-old Serena Adams had herpes. Herpes is an incurable disease that lies dormant but is easy to transmit when active at the time of sexual intercourse, even at times when no symptoms are evident. Serena has complained from time to time of itching and sores in her groin and burning sensations while urinating. Although not life threatening, genital herpes can affect one's life by making one more susceptible to HIV infection; newborn babies can be infected if herpes is active in the mother at the time of birth; and one may have to explain the disease's presence to future partners. Serena has been sending notes to Donnie, an 18-year-old male resident, suggesting dates for sex. That Serena is infected is known only to the staff

members and to Serena.

The treatment team, after discussing this development, asked Jackie Lamartine, Serena's social worker, to explore the situation with her. She was instructed to try to convince Serena to avoid any sexual relations with Donnie, or at the least to make sure they have protected sex. Jackie said she didn't mind speaking to Serena but felt someone should inform Donnie of Serena's herpes. Jackie thought that not telling Donnie prevented him from making an informed choice, even to assure his use of a condom. When Jackie spoke to Serena, she told her that she knows she loves Donnie and that she feels Serena would want to protect him and her. Serena refused to cooperate, arguing that the information must be kept confidential, that she and Donnie love each other, and that how they have sex is their own business. She insisted that no one tell Donnie of her illness. The team members are split as to what to do now.

Based on the case above respond to the following questions:

- a) Should Jackie and the team leave Serena and Donnie to make their own decisions despite the risks to them both?
- b) Is the duty to protect Donnie more important than the maintenance of confidentiality for Serena?
- c) If Jackie tells Donnie the facts, she will interfere with Serena's self-determination and freedom, but if she doesn't tell him, she exposes him to potential infection. Is the social worker ethically justified to discuss the situation with Donnie without Serena's agreement?
- d) What is the social worker's duty to protect in this situation and whom should she try to protect? Donnie? Serena? Both?

QUESTION 6

Case study: Bianca

Blanca Glabella, an 84-year-old retired physician, participates in a day treatment program and resides in an assisted living residence. Recently, she has become slightly more forgetful, falls more frequently, and has been somewhat less able to care for herself. She has also become increasingly irascible, and several staff members have complained about her demanding behavior. Your supervisor has asked you, her social worker, to arrange for her transfer to a nursing home because Bianca is a "pain," requires too much effort, and is upsetting staff members who have many other duties in the residential program. Although you believe that Bianca is not yet in need of nursing home care, you contacted the only nursing home with a vacancy to arrange for her transfer.

Based on the case above discuss the ethical choices you might have to make before taking a decision pertaining to Bianca

- a) Who should set the goals in this situation?
- b) If you comply with your supervisor's demand, you and your supervisor determine

Blanca's future while also undermining her sense of autonomy.

- c) Do you and your supervisor have an ethical right to do so?
- d) What part should Blanca play in deciding her own living arrangements?