

Karve Institute of Social Service
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**PRE AND POST TRAINING ATTITUDE TEST FOR
TRAINEE SOCIAL WORKERS : ACTION RESEARCH**

**Sponsored by
UGC**

Under their Minor Research Project

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Research Team

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Executive Summary

Rationale of the Study:

This study is based on the belief that if the adult learners have an opportunity to participate in their learning processes with conscious understanding and facilitation by the teachers with appropriate role modeling as well as by reinforcement, then they are able to examine their own attitudes and values. This leads to either strengthening their existing attitudes, or modifying existing attitudes or acquiring more appropriate attitudes willingly.

Objectives of the study:

1. To identify the core dimensions essential for social work.
2. To measure these dimensions by preparing a standardized attitude measurement scale.
3. To identify the attitudes of student's social workers at the entry point of training.
4. To access the attitude scores after one year of training.
5. To identify the dimensions which require necessary modifications in the three workshops and two seminars (which are a vital part of 1st year curriculum).

Through the objective of study, the research team tried to find answers to two questions –

- What are the qualities or factors necessary for professional social work?
- How can these qualities or factors be predicated as indicative of potentials in candidates through psychological test responses?

Two tests used were Sentence Completion and the TAT as predictor variables.

Their study indicates that the number of students who had score “inadequate” in the test predications were more unsuccessful in field work than the students who had scored as adequate in test predictions.

Tool of data collection :

A attitude scale for social work students was developed by the psychology expert, in consultation with the research team. The test is based on Likert scale which is based on degree of agreement with particular statement. There are five alternatives: Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree.

Conclusion of Study:

1. Students who come for MSW training may not always have the appropriate attitudes which are not only important for professional practice but also essential for undergoing training.
2. Planned curricular inputs do help in positive attitude especially gender sensitivity.
3. Caste linked sensitivity has relationship with the caste of the students. Students from reserved caste positively respond to statements which state affirmative action's under constitution compared to students from open category
4. Minority religion is equated with Muslim, and Muslim religion is linked with terrorism. Hence students who belong to Hindu religion are ambiguous about their own attitudes towards minority groups.
5. Belief in change and ethics scores showed increase in the number of average scores in post training test. Other experience during the one year may contribute in the confusion and doubt in students.
6. Institute's policy of consciously encouraging students from regional language background (especially Marathi) may contribute resentment in the classmates who do not understand Marathi.