Chapter 9

Community Organization as a Method of Social Work and Its Implications for the COVID–19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

The community organization method is applied when the society takes the initiative to solve its problems and wants to meet its needs. In this case, society plays different roles in addressing its various needs and problems. People dealing with the problem in the community or people directly affected by the problem take the lead in solving problems. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a worldwide social and economic crisis. This has made deep-rooted inequalities worse and visible in the communities most marginalized by the crisis. In this context, community organizers can respond to inequalities that become visible by fulfilling their various roles with the method of community organization, which is one of the components of the social work mission and aims to ensure social justice and equality.

INTRODUCTION

The community organizing method is applied when the society takes the initiative to solve its problems and wants to meet its needs. Society then plays different roles in addressing its various needs and problems. People dealing with the problems in the community or people directly affected by the problem take the lead in solving them. In other words, these people guide the society and take different roles in solving the problem. As might be expected, such a process will not occur as easily as it is written.

If taking initiative does not come from society itself, an expert from outside that society, a community organizer or an organization intervenes and starts working with that society. Opportunities are revealed together with the society; collective goals are set; strategy and tactics are designed; action is taken and

the outputs are evaluated. Those who fulfill these functions are called community organizers. The community organizer assumes appropriate roles according to the environment, problem and situation. Thus, community organizers take on various roles.

Community organization, which is one of the components of the social work mission, aims to ensure social justice and equality. In the first part of our study, basic information about community organization and community organization models will be discussed. The models will provide a framework for understanding the roles of the community organizer.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a worldwide social and economic crisis. This has made deep-rooted inequalities worse and visible in the communities most marginalized by the crisis. In this context, community organizers can respond to inequalities that become visible by fulfilling their various roles with the method of community organization, which is one of the components of the social work mission and aims to ensure social justice and equality. The community organizer has important roles in fulfilling the mission of community organization. The community organizer can be effective in ensuring social change, social justice and equality with the roles s/he assumes. In the second part of the study, the roles of the community organizer will be analyzed. By doing so, the situation the COVID-19 pandemic created will be addressed through the lens of this method.

In this context, the aim of this paper is to bring community organizers together in order to work effectively with the community, to help solve their problems, and ultimately to reveal the roles that they take in the process of making the world more livable. While doing this, it is another purpose of this study to contribute to the development of the macro dimension of social work that can offer innovative solutions to the social and economic crisis created by the pandemic by critically addressing the implications of the community organization method against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community organization tries to reshape social and economic power imbalances in society, create better conditions for community members and mobilize disadvantaged individuals. In this context, the aim of the study is to bring people together to help solve the problems of the community organizer in order to work effectively with the society and ultimately to reveal the roles that they take in the process of making the world more livable.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Community practice is part of the social work mission and expresses that the profession is committed to the values of a fair and equitable community. There is a need for social workers trained in macro intervention methods to encourage and help implement systematic change on behalf of vulnerable communities weakened by the market economy (Starr et al., 1999, p. 24).

Community organization aims to promote economic and social justice, human rights and equality. Organizing begins with the belief that change is possible, necessary, and can occur as a result of collective effort. Community organizers help to create the feeling that change is possible and to show the way the world should be (Rubin & Rubin, 2008, p. 17). Community organization is a planned process in mobilizing the society to achieve the goals of society by using the society's own social structures and existing resources (Bracht, 1999, p. 86; Bezboruah, 2013, p. 10).

Community organization is based on the idea that ordinary people should come together and come together to define their common goals, to speak and act on their behalf (Staples, 2009, p. 271). Again, according to Staples (2009), The act of organizing is a process that goes from the bottom up; It is the

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