


# Chapter 7


## Social Work in Gamification and Creative Drama Technique

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### ABSTRACT

*Gamification has recently become a prominent approach, and this chapter explores its relevance to social work. The integration of gamification with creative drama in social work practices is supported by research findings and practical examples. Using creative drama as a gamification method can reduce interpersonal biases, support emotional and cognitive growth, enhance communication, and positively impact social work education. This approach is not limited to social work—it can enrich learning environments across various educational settings by increasing engagement and effectiveness. The collaboration among social work, gamification, and creative drama presents a promising framework for the future of human service institutions and professionals. This integrated method can promote personal development, help individuals overcome challenges, and contribute to meaningful change in their lives and communities.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Gamification and creative drama offer effective ways to boost participation, motivation, and skill development in social work. Gamification, the use of game elements in non-game settings, is increasingly used to engage individuals and improve learning outcomes. In social work, it plays a key role in motivating people to join programs that enhance social skills and mental well-being.

Gamification elements such as points, badges, and leaderboards create interactive environments that encourage active involvement. These tools not only increase participation but also strengthen social connections, build a sense of community, and reduce feelings of isolation. One of the strengths of gamification is its flexibility. It can be customized with personal stories and experiences, making interventions more meaningful and relevant. This helps attract participants' interest and encourages deeper engagement in the process. Immersive and interactive gamification designs are especially useful in promoting healthy behaviors and encouraging connection with community resources. They are also effective in reaching individuals who may feel socially excluded or disconnected. Creative drama is another powerful method in social work, used to improve social skills, emotional expression, and personal development. Through techniques like improvisation and role-playing, it offers a safe space for participants to explore and express themselves. These practices also support self-efficacy by helping individuals build confidence in their abilities. Creative drama, like gamification, creates opportunities for meaningful interaction and growth within social work interventions. Research shows that creative drama-based activities increase participants' self-confidence and reinforce their confidence in social interactions (Jackson & Bynum, 1997, Ong et al., 2020). For example, a study conducted on university students revealed that creative drama practices were effective in increasing social skills (Pekdoğan & Korkmaz, 2016). In addition, creative drama as a therapeutic tool is also useful for individuals with emotional and behavioural disorders. Such activities enable individuals to express themselves and improve their social interaction skills.

Creative drama also supports the development of skills such as teamwork and co-operation. These skills are extremely important for effective co-operation in social work environments. Creative drama strengthens cooperation within the group and makes individuals' social interactions more effective. This approach also encourages individuals to express themselves and learn from their experiences. In addition, creative drama helps participants to increase their self-awareness by supporting their intellectual processes and emotional development. It can also be used for cultural awareness. Creative drama is recognised as an effective tool for exploring and protecting cultural heritage.

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