

SECTION III. MEZZO LEVEL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

SOCIAL WORK THEORIES – MEZZO LEVEL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

Section III focuses on mezzo social work practice. Mezzo social work practice is defined as practice with organization and formal (Miley, O'Melia, & DuBois, 2017) groups (Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2018).

Readers should focus on the role of social workers with and in formal and informal groups and organizations. This may include leading, coordinating, or facilitating a formal or informal team or being a team member within a group context.

Section III requires foundation and advanced students to apply three theoretical frameworks (General Systems Theory, Social Learning Theory and Culture of Violence Theory) to the Healthy Relationships Program scenario.

According to the 5 Phases of Theory Application by Gentle-Genitty (2011), through the embracing of theory as both a lens and an experience we can apply theory to clients and clients situations to help us build rapport, listen and organize their stories, determine patterns, conduct assessment, formulate a plan of action, and still monitor progress and move towards termination. It is with this view then that as student social workers or practitioners that we must understand what we do and learn about how theory can inform this practice.

General System's Theory	General systems theory is a conceptual orientation that attempts to explain holistically the behavior of people and societies by identifying the interacting components of the system and the controls that keep these components, stable and in a state of equilibrium. It is concerned with the boundaries, roles, relationships, and flow of information between people. General systems theory is a subset of systems theories that focuses on living entities, from microorganisms to societies. Another attractive feature of general systems theory has been its explication of a framework conceptualizing the person-in-environment perspective, which has long characterized social work (Gallant & Thyer, 1991).
Social Learning Theory	Albert Bandura's social learning theory suggests that observation and modeling play a primary role in how and why people learn. Bandura's theory goes beyond the perception of learning being the result of direct experience with the environment. Learning, according to Bandura, can occur simply by observing others' behavior. He explains in his 1977 book <i>Social Learning Theory</i> , "most human behavior is learned observationally through modeling: from observing others one forms an idea of how new behaviors are performed, and on later occasions, this coded information serves as a guide for action." Social learning can be used effectively in the workplace to observe and model productive behaviors. However, social learning does not occur passively. Attention, retention, reproduction, and motivation are required in order to benefit from social learning practices (UC Berkeley, 2022).

Ubuntu Model of Migration and Refugees	This perspective argues African migrants or refugees leave their home countries due to unfavorable conditions, but remain connected to their permanent home and ultimately will return to their permanent home. Most African refugees or migrants do not want to be separated from their family, relatives, and home country forever. This perspective argues that being a migrant or refugee is a journey, which ends with coming back home. Obtaining citizenship, permanent residency, a job or house in another country does not provide ultimate belonging and as such, every journey ends where it started (Africa Social Work Network, 2020)
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FOUNDATION LEVEL ACTIVITY:

As the social worker of the Healthy Relationships Program and a facilitator of empowerment and social change, practice verbalizing how each theoretical framework can help you explain the prevalence of sexual and gender based violence against women.

1. Application of General System's Theory
2. Application of Social Learning Theory
3. Ubuntu Model of Migration and Refugees

ADVANCED LEVEL ACTIVITY: Approximately 2.1 million sub-Saharan African immigrants resided in the U.S. in 2019. The sub-Saharan African immigrant population has increased substantially over the past four decades and is likely to continue to increase. Approximately 261,000 (2%) of the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. were from sub-Saharan Africa. Approximately 3,300 undocumented immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa were active participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which provides temporary deportation relief and work authorization. There are a total of 611,500 DACA with sub-Saharan African immigrants representing only 1 percent. Sub-Saharan African immigrants have lower average incomes and experience poverty at higher rates than the overall foreign-born population (Migration Policy Institute, 2022).

In *Texas vs. United States*, the states of Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina, and West Virginia are challenging the legality of DACA. Furthermore, *Texas vs. United States* seeks a ruling that the original 2012 DACA memo is unlawful, whether or not there is a president who wants to implement it (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, 2021). On July 16, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas held that DACA was illegal, violated immigration law and prohibited DHS from granting initial DACA requests and employment authorization. On August 30, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a final rule to preserve and fortify DACA and temporarily protects DACA recipients. The DHS final rule is set to take effect on October 31, 2022 (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2022).

On October 5, 2022, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals partially affirmed the U.S. District Court's July 16, 2021 decision by declaring DACA unlawful and remanded the case back to U.S. District Court of Texas for further proceedings on the DHS final rule. On October 14, 2022, the

U.S. District Court of Texas issued an order extending the DHS DACA final rule injunction and partial stay (USCIS, 2022). As such, USCIS will continue to accept and process DACA renewals and accompanying employment authorization and applications for advance parole for already DACA recipients. This means that DACA individuals, related employment authorization and advance parole will continue to be recognized as valid under the DHS final rule. Under court orders, DHS remains prohibited from granting initial or new DACA requests and accompanying requests for employment authorization (USCIS, 2022). With the U.S. Senate, being split 50-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris as the tie-breaking vote. At least 10 republicans would need to join Democrats in order to advance legislation (Reuters, 2022). According to the Los Angeles Times (2022), a small but growing number of DACA recipients, disheartened after years of instability, are voluntarily moving to countries where they can acquire permanent legal status. Some are going back to where they were born and others have transferred jobs or applied for student programs in unfamiliar places.

You are the social worker at a nonprofit organization that serves immigrants, undocumented immigrants and refugees. As the social worker, some of your duties are to assist immigrants and refugees find services, work, benefits and providing them information on their rights. The community in which your organization is located has the highest number of undocumented sub-Saharan African and Latinx immigrant population.

Practice verbalizing a plan of action you would take to educate and raise awareness among other organizations in your community about the challenges affecting undocumented immigrants in your community. Identify which organizations in your community could join the mission of your organization, become advocates and provide additional supportive services to undocumented immigrants in your community. Furthermore, verbalize a plan of action you could implement to empower immigrants and other community members to lobby lawmakers.

Utilize components from the following theoretical perspectives to guide the plan of action:

1. Application of General System's Theory
2. Application of Social Learning Theory
3. Application of Ubuntu Model of Migration and Refugees

My action plan included use one or more of the following soft skills:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empathy | <input type="checkbox"/> Assertiveness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Education |