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KIRIRI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION, 2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR
FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
FOR THE DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WORK
DDS 203: SOCIAL WORK THEORIES AND PRACTICE

Date: 9TH DECEMBER 2024

Time: 2:30PM-4:30PM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

ANSWER QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

Case Study: Maria's Predicament in Navigating through life.

Maria, a 26-year-old single mother of two, has recently lost her job due to company downsizing. She lives in a low-income neighborhood where resources and support services are limited. With no savings and limited access to support, Maria is struggling to provide food and shelter for her family. Her mental health has deteriorated, and she feels isolated, with no family nearby to support her. She is experiencing high levels of stress and depression, which are affecting her ability to care for her children.

Maria reaches out to a local social work agency for assistance. She expresses feelings of hopelessness and desperation, worried that she may lose custody of her children if her situation does not improve.

A social worker is assigned to her case and begins an initial assessment.

- a) Based on your understanding of social work theories, analyze how systems theory and ecological theory can be applied to understand Maria's situation. (6 Marks)
- b) Examine the potential ethical issues that the social worker should consider when handling Maria's case. (6 Marks)
- c) Develop an intervention plan that the social worker could propose to help Maria stabilize her situation, taking into account community resources, family dynamics, and Maria's mental health needs. (6 Marks)
- d) Briefly discuss how strengths-based practice can be used to empower Maria in her journey towards self-sufficiency. (6 Marks)
- e) As a professional, discuss the skills the social worker should observe to ensure Maria feels she is being handled fairly and genuinely. (6 Marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Examine the key elements of Systems Theory? (6 Marks)
- b) Discuss how it applies to social work practice. (7 Marks)
- c) Explore an example of how a social worker might use this theory with a family in crisis. (7 Marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the importance of ethical standards in social work. (7 Marks)
- b) Examine two ethical principles and describe how they guide professional practice. (7 Marks)
- c) How can social workers ensure they are practicing in a culturally sensitive way? (6 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the role of a social worker in crisis intervention? (6 Marks)
- b) Analyze the main steps involved in helping a client through a crisis situation. (7 Marks)
- c) Using an example explore how the Strengths-Based Approach in social work, would empower clients. (7 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Critically analyze the Person-in-Environment (PIE) perspective in social work practice. (7 Marks)
- b) How does this approach enhance the understanding of clients' situations? (6 Marks)
- c) Analyze the role of social workers in promoting social justice? (7 Marks)