

SWK 554: HBSE

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Reflection #1 Introduction to Human Behavior in the Social Environment

1-Describe the basic ideas of the Ecological Systems Perspective in Social Work.

According to the text, the main ideas of the Ecological systems in Social Work looks at the entire situation and not from an individualistic perspective. It helps to define a social problem without depending one individual cause. The text states that social work practice is based on dual focus. Dual focus comprises of the person and the situation, and the system and its environment. Social works practice occurs at the interface between the human system and its environments, and the ways each influences the other. According to the text, social work is best conducted when the transitions promote growth and development of the organism while being ameliorative to the environment thus making it a better place for sustenance.

2-Explain the four levels of systems that conceptualize the social environment that were developed by Brim and Bronfrenbrenner.

The four levels of systems that conceptualize the social environment that were developed by Brim and Bronfrenbrenner were the microsystems, mesosystems, exosystems and macrosystems. Microsystems involves the immediate environment that is closest to the individual and is “direct contact amongst system participants.” Next is the mesosystem which is describes as the layer above microsystems linking the individual to the microsystem involving “the network social setting of each individual.” Following the mesosystem is the exosystem which entails the larger part of society that influences the individual indirectly as it may affect their micro or meso system which in tur affects the individual’s life and examines “the broader social environment” when assessing the individual. Last but not least is the macrosystem which are describes as the “larger subcultural and cultural context” that houses all of the systems mentioned. Macrosystems are the outermost part of the individual systems relates to social and cultural norm that shapes the individual development for example the governing laws. All the system together looks at the “person in environment.”