

INTRODUCTION TO
SOCIAL WORK
and
SOCIAL WELFARE

Sixth Edition

CHARLES ZASTROW



INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE

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Charles Zastrow

University of Wisconsin—Whitewater



Brooks/Cole Publishing Company

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Photo Editor: *Robert Western*
Indexer: *Do Mi Stauber*
Typesetting: *Weimer Graphics*
Cover Printing: *Color Dot Graphics, Inc.*
Printing and Binding: *R. R. Donnelley & Sons*

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For more information, contact:

BROOKS/COLE PUBLISHING COMPANY
511 Forest Lodge Road
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
USA

International Thomson Publishing Europe
Berkshire House 168-173
High Holborn
London WC1V 7AA
England

Thomas Nelson Australia
102 Dodds Street
South Melbourne, 3205
Victoria, Australia

Nelson Canada
1120 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, Ontario
Canada M1K 5G4

International Thomson Editores
Campos Eliseos 385, Piso 7
Col. Polanco
11560 México D.F. México

International Thomson Publishing GmbH
Königswinterer Strasse 418
53227 Bonn
Germany

International Thomson Publishing Asia
221 Henderson Road
#05-10 Henderson Building
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International Thomson Publishing Japan
Hirakawacho Kyowa Building, 3F
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Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Zastrow, Charles.

Introduction to social work and social welfare / Charles Zastrow.
— 6th ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p.) and index.

ISBN 0-534-33852-6

1. Social service—United States. 2. Social service—Vocational guidance—United States. 3. Public welfare—United States.

I. Title.

HV91.Z37 1996

362—dc20

95-12701

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INTRODUCTION

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About the Author

CHARLES ZASTROW, MSW and PhD, is Professor in the Social Work Department, University of Wisconsin—Whitewater. He has worked as a practitioner in a variety of public and private social welfare agencies and has chaired 11 social work accreditation site visit teams for the Council on Social Work Education. He is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, the Council on Social Work Education, and NASW Register of Clinical Social Workers. In addition to *Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare*, Dr. Zastrow has written four other textbooks: *The Practice of Social Work*, *Social Work with Groups*, *Social Problems*, and *Understanding Human Behavior and the Social Environment* (with Dr. Karen Kirst-Ashman).

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PREFACE

This book is designed to stimulate student interest in social work and to provide an experiential “flavor” of what the fields of social welfare and social work are really like. Using a social problems approach, the book describes how people are affected by poverty, child abuse, emotional difficulties, sexism, alcoholism, crime, AIDS, physical and mental disabilities, racism, overpopulation, sexual dysfunctions, and other problems. Information on the nature, extent, and causes of such problems is also presented. In teaching introductory courses in social work, a number of my colleagues and I have found that students tend to be more interested when they come face-to-face with the tragic social conditions that people experience. This book also includes case examples through which the reader is able to identify with people in need of help.

Knowledge about social problems prepares and motivates the student to read the sections of the text that cover current services, merits and shortcomings of those services, and new programs that are needed to fill service gaps.

In addition, *Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare* is designed to:

- Provoke the reader’s thinking about some of the controversial, contemporary issues in social welfare. I believe developing the student’s reasoning capacities is much more important than teaching unimportant facts to be recited on exams.
- Convey material on counseling techniques and on the analysis of policy issues that the reader can use in working with people and in arriving at policy decisions.
- Provide case examples of the functions, roles, responsibilities, gratifications, and frustrations of social workers that will help the student who is considering a social work major to make an informed career decision.
- Provide a brief historical review of the development of social welfare, social work, and various social services.
- Help the reader “sort out” his or her value structure in relation to welfare recipients, single parents, ex-convicts, the mentally ill, the

divorced, persons with AIDS, abusive parents, minority groups, those who are prejudiced, and so on. The aim is not to sell any particular set of values but to help the reader arrive at a value system that she or he will be comfortable with and find functional in interacting with others.

Plan of the Book

Part I introduces the student to the fields of social welfare, social work, and human services. These terms are defined, and their relationships to sociology, psychology, and other disciplines are described. A brief history of social welfare and social work is provided, and the future is examined. A discussion of social work as a career and as a profession is included, and this gives the reader a basis for deciding whether to pursue a career in social work.

Part II focuses on the most common social problems served by the field of social welfare. This part constitutes the main emphasis of the text and describes:

- Contemporary social problems in our society.
- Current social services for meeting these problems.
- Gaps in current services.
- Controversial issues in each service area.
- Proposed new programs to meet current gaps in services.

Numerous case examples provide the reader with a “feeling” awareness of how the problems affect people and convey what it is really like to be a social worker.

Part III focuses on generalist social work practice with systems of all sizes, including individuals, groups, families, organizations, and communities. This part presents a conceptualization of generalist social work practice and summarizes the change process in social work practice. The knowledge, skills, and values needed for effective social work practice are summarized.

This sixth edition updates information in all of

the chapters. Several chapters have been extensively revised in accordance with suggestions from a number of faculty members who reviewed and commented on the fifth edition. New topics include health care reform, recent welfare reform proposals, illegal immigration issues, physician-assisted suicide, DSM-IV categories of mental illness, feminist perspectives on therapy, co-dependency, crack babies, anabolic steroids, recent research on sexual orientation, and types of sexual harassment.

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the national organization that accredits baccalaureate and master’s-degree programs in social work education in the United States. In 1992 CSWE adopted revisions in its Curriculum Policy Statements for undergraduate and graduate programs. A major thrust of this edition of *Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare* is to present material that is consistent with the revisions of these policy statements. Material has been added in this sixth edition on social work values and ethics, diversity, promotion of social and economic justice, populations at risk, social work practice with organizations, the change process in social work, and feminist perspectives on intervention.

The book is intended for use in introductory social work and social welfare courses. It introduces prospective social work majors to the field of social welfare and will help them arrive at career decisions and prepare for future social work courses. For nonmajors, the book provides information about current social problems and social services; the text also gives a framework for analyzing policy issues and for making citizenship decisions.

Acknowledgments

I wish to express my deep appreciation to the various people who made this book possible. Special thanks to the contributing authors, to the artist (Don Baumgart) for the line drawings, and to the photo researcher, Bob Western. I would like to thank the following colleagues who provided comments on the manuscript for this edition:

Mich Barbezat, Elgin Community College; Gloria Carpenter, University of Texas; Kathy Elpers, University of Southern Indiana; Bruce Friedman, Wayne State University; Mary Hart, University of Wyoming; Ken Herrmann, State University of New York at Brockport; Janine Mariscotti, LaSalle University; Ann Boydston Park, Cabrini College; William Roberts; David Storm, Central Missouri State University; and Carolyn Tice, Ohio Univer-

sity at Athens. A sincere thank you to Linda Brown, Ralph Navarre, Nancy Sienko, Mace J. Delorme, and Vicki Vogel, who were “alter egos” for conceptualizing various chapters and helped in a number of ways with the writing of this text.

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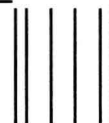
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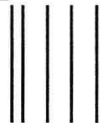
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