# The Struggles in the Role of a Social Worker

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The calling to become a social worker is very personal and requires a level of commitment unlike many other professions. Social workers typically are empathetic and caring individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of individuals and in society as whole. Therein lies the struggle that many social workers experience. In the profession, you may at times be torn between what is the best course for your client and what most benefits the community.

**Multiple Roles**

Social workers often divide their time between working one-on-one with families and individuals and finding a place for clients in the community. As a counselor, you help a client find suitable solutions for the predicaments that got him to you in the first place. Your role also requires you to seek a place in the social network in which your clients can excel. The two may be at odds, creating a dilemma for achieving your goals. For example, while a client may prosper in a group home setting, you’re often drawn into a neighborhood controversy that doesn’t welcome a group home in its midst.

**Family Roles**

As a social worker, you may be drawn into family crises that raise multiple concerns and struggles. Your job can require you to keep families together, for example, but you may find yourself facing alcoholism or drug abuse problems that call for removal of the children from the home. The struggles mount as you seek a path of recovery for the parent and try to find suitable housing for the children. You may end up in a continuing struggle as the parent leaves recovery and tries to reunite with children who seem to be thriving in their new environment.

**Changing Roles**

The social work profession is an ever-evolving dynamic in which you must keep up with changing social values and cultures. While you may carry a heavy caseload, it’s tantamount to your ability to serve your constituency that you keep up with training on changing issues. For example, social media has created a new avenue for bullying in schools that creates drama and tension; such cases often are referred to a social worker for assistance. Intervention for children being bullied through social media creates an entirely new realm for social workers who don’t always have direct access to the source of the problem. New intervention techniques are needed for you to deal with changing issues. At the same time, you’re required to help children adjust to the new paradigm over which you have little control.

**Societal Roles**

The responsibilities of social workers are so diverse that many have difficulty defining their role. On the one hand, your job is to assist those who’ve suffered because of failed social systems; on the other hand, it’s your responsibility to work within those very systems. The struggle often requires you to support both sides of the conflict. If your primary goal is social integration for the disenfranchised, it may be difficult to rely on those failed systems for support when they are the very environments to which you must return your clients. Social policies dealing with health, education and crime are institutions that become overwhelmed with the needs of a society, yet they are the very same systems in which you must work and navigate to complete your mission.

WRITING A SUMMARY

BRAINSTORMING

The Struggles in the Role of a Social Worker

INTRODUCTION

1. Ray has brought up a problem which affects social workers in terms of choosing the appropriate path which would be best for the client and beneficial for the community.
2. This paper deals with the struggles in the role of a social worker.
3. This paper deals with the struggles in the role of a social worker, namely with the balance between welfare of the client and of the community.
4. Unlike many other professionals, social workers are often torn between different roles they have to fulfil in order to make a difference in the lives of individuals and society as whole.

BODY

1. Some of the roles are family roles, changing roles, societal and multiple./Multiple roles that social workers fulfil include family and societal roles, and are constantly changing.
2. The paper outlines the importance of adjusting the role of social worker to every client/case individually.
3. The paper emphasises that social workers must stay in tune with intervention techniques / changing social values and cultures.

CONCLUSION

1. The roles of social workers are so diverse that it has become necessary to redefine their role.
2. It is becoming increasingly difficult to define the role of social workers in modern society.
3. The caseload of social workers is constantly increasing, and it is necessary for social workers to keep up with new trends and changes.

Write a summary using the above suggestions!