

Centering public impact scholarship among social work scholars to promote and contribute to the United Nations sustainable development goals

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WHY IS THIS RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

- This study aimed to **emphasize the importance of utilizing public impact scholarship to further SDGs.**
 - Public impact scholarship refers to research activities and engagement that increase public knowledge while working with stakeholders to address social justice issues.
 - The United Nations SDGs are a list 17 goals that focus on ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity.
- **SDGs closely align with social work values** related to ending racial, social, political, economic, and environmental injustices.
- Utilizing public impact scholarship, **social work scholars have the opportunity to significantly increase the support, promotion, and advancement of the SDGs.**
- Social work scholars are uniquely positioned to further the SDGs, but often neglect to engage in policy practice and political action related to the SDGs.

HOW WAS THIS RESEARCH CONDUCTED?

- A review of the existing literature was performed to define the role of public impact scholarship within social work, the alignment between social work and the SDGs, and the importance of public impact scholarship and the SDGs at the university level.
- Additionally, research focused on addressing both the barriers and opportunities to further the SDGs using public impact scholarship.

WHAT WERE THE KEY FINDINGS?

- **Universities may dissuade public impact research in pre-tenure scholars due to the lack of external grants and contracts associated with public impact research.** Further, larger institutions, such as universities, may be hesitant to embrace changes resulting from public impact research.
- Social work **researchers have the opportunity to further the SDGs by implementing a more multi-disciplinary research model** by engaging with members from other disciplines and community stakeholders to translate findings into breakthroughs.
- Opportunities for social work programs to further the SDGs using public-impact scholarship include **utilizing social media, podcasts, blog writing, and op-eds to disseminate research findings.**
- Additionally, **creating systemic changes to social work schools** and programs such as creating a publicly available repository for applied scholarship related to SDGs and centering curricula on community-based learning **may promote public impact scholarship to advance the SDGs.**

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Social work scholars must prioritize public impact scholarship to forward the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs).

ACTION STEPS

Social work scholars **publicly sharing research and expertise** is necessary to help advance the SDGs.

Using a **coordinated effort to cultivate new approaches to research, teaching, and service beyond current reward systems**, social work scholars should work to normalize public impact scholarship within the profession.

A paradigm shift in how knowledge and productivity is valued in social work academia is necessary to realize the SDGs.



CONTINUE READING

Full Article

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