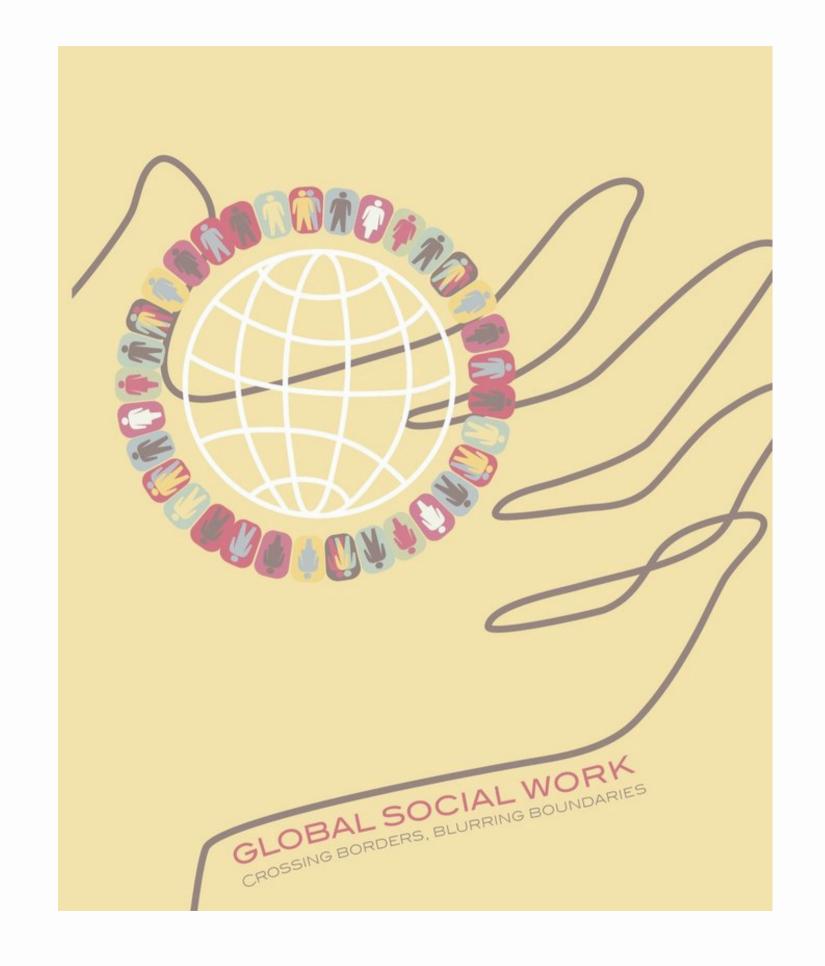
Social Work Global Course Extension: Key Highlights & Takeaways

Shreeja S. Vachhani University of Michigan School of Social Work August 21st, 2024



Presentation Outline

My positionality and perspective

Key takeaways from field and community visits

- Social work structure and function in India and the U.S.
- Influence of learnings on academic, professional, and personal goals

- Interlinked social issues in the Indian context
- Concluding remarks

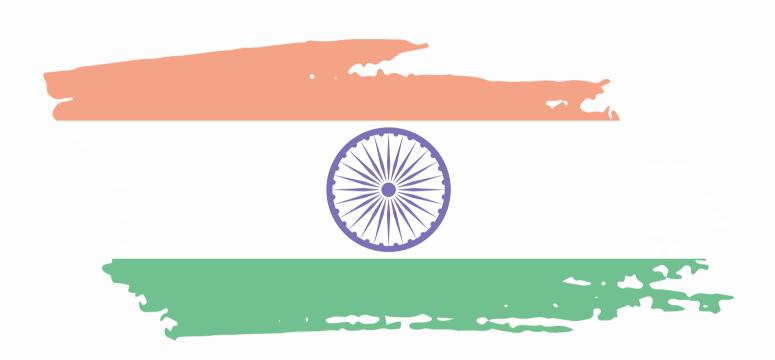
My positionality & perspective

Who am I? What is my lens?

- Cisgender, hereterosexual female
- Young adult
- Indian citizen
- Nonimmigrant in the U.S.
 - Person of color
- Multilingual
- Able-bodied
- Upper-middle class
- Hindu
- Receiving higher education

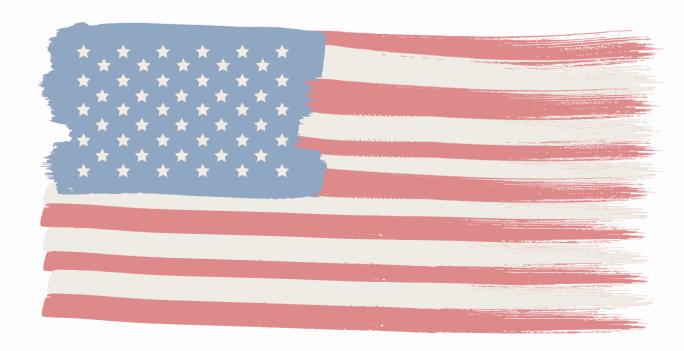
Privilege
Oppression
Diversity
Social Justice
(PODS)

Social work structure & function

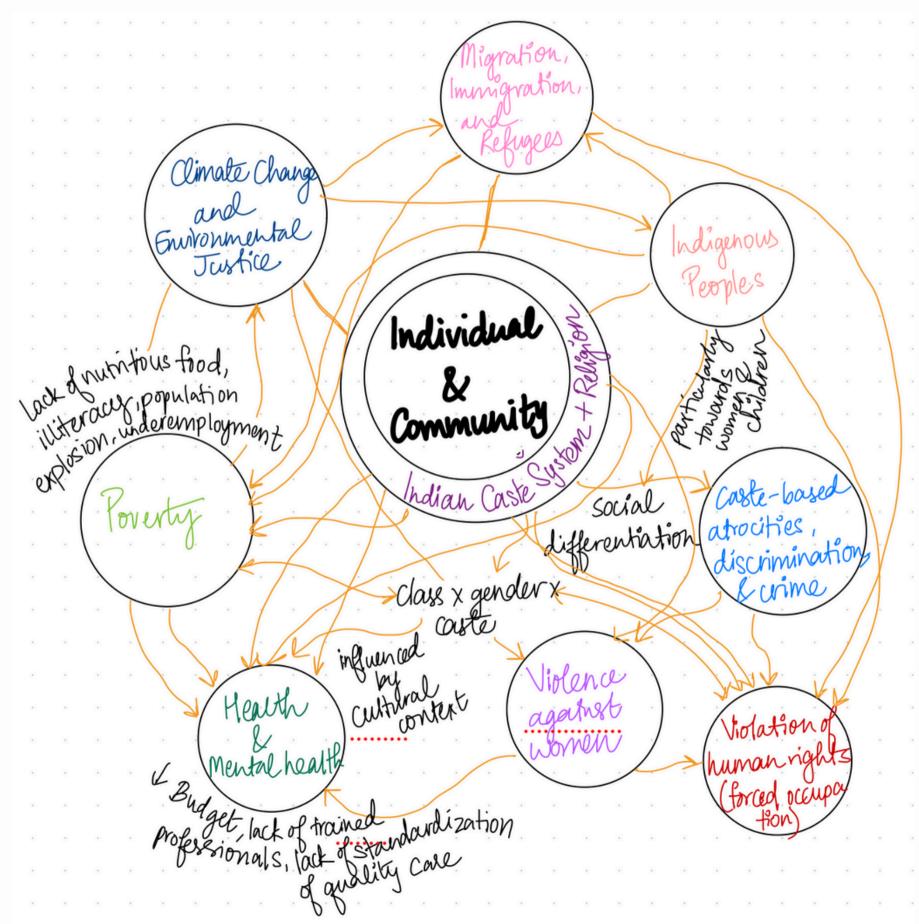


- O1 Integrated practice of micro, mezzo, and macro social work
- O2 Social work practice beyond education and licensure
- O3 Accountability and responsibility to causes, individuals, and communities
- O4 Emphasis on human rights and cultural context

- O1 Distinct practices of micro, mezzo, and macro social work
- O2 Formalized and regulated social work education, licensure, and practice
- O3 Focus on professionalism and worklife balance
- O4 Person-in-environment context and standardized procedures



Interlinked social issues in the Indian context



Takeaways from field and community visits

Rehoboth - Home for Desitute Mentally Challenged Women

Dignity & worth of the person; sense of community and belongingness; self-empowerment and skill building; early intervention; social reintegration

Irular Tribal Women Welfare Society (ITWWS)

Traditional ecological knowledge; economic empowerment and skill building; balancing traditional practices with the impact of modernization

Field Action Program - Field Site

Sense of community and pride in their culture and traditions; child education; tangible manifestations of casteism; community-centered initiatives; importance of human relationships



Vellaputhur - Award Winning Village for Water Conservation

Leadership and management; self-empowerment and public participation; localized goals, initiatives, and evaluations; responsibility and accountability; other successful initiatives (e.g., sanitation and education)

Impact on academic, professional, & personal goals:



Academic

- IS w/Dr. Julie Ribaudo "Exploring attachment,
 resilience, and infant mental
 health in the Indian context"
- Analyzing social work ethical standards and competencies in India

Professional

- Networking with mental health professionals in India to explore scope of future practice
- Bridging U.S. social work training with Indian social work context for future practice

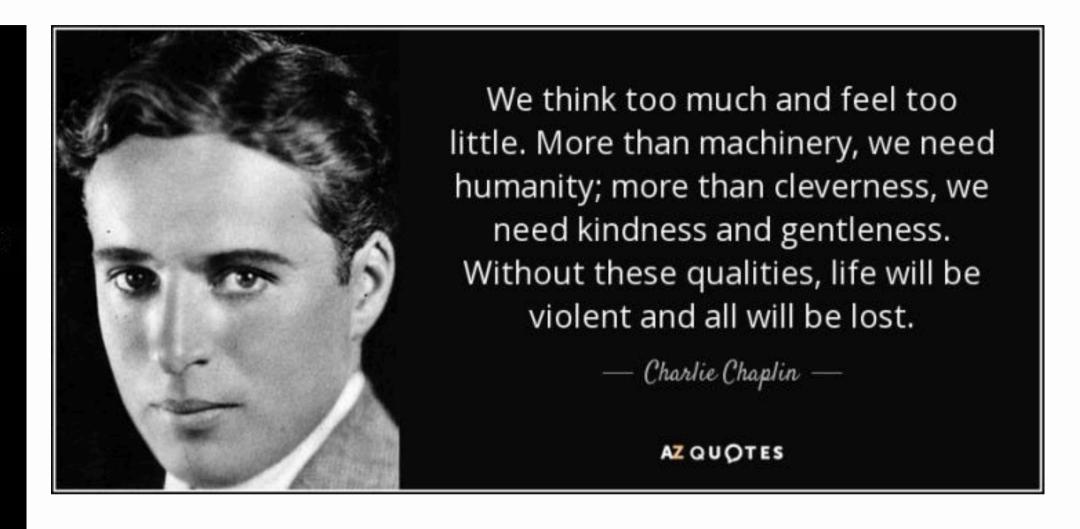
Personal

- Prioritizing self-care while navigating exposure to injustices
- Reflecting on my assumptions and perspectives regarding Indian vs. American populations

AFTER CLIMBING A GREAT HILL,
ONE ONLY FINDS THAT THERE ARE
MANY MORE HILLS TO CLIMB.

- NELSON MANDELA -

RATETHEQUOTE.COM



As experience proves, rights are protected not by law but by social and moral conscience of the society. -Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



- Dr. Prince Solomon, and the entire social work department at MCC
- Dr. Katie Lopez, Dr. Ashley Cureton Bhavalkar, and Greta Kaempf
- Community members
- Priya and Thimona
- MCC International Guest House staff
- MCC social work students
- My U-M SSW peers

and many more!

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