

Disaster Social Work in the Nordic Countries: Sustainability and Social Capital

The Nordic countries are known for their extensive welfare systems often referred to as the Nordic or Scandinavian welfare model. Local public social services are an important component of the Nordic welfare systems. Their role is to ensure the inhabitants with basic recourses, benefits, housing and services in times of need. There is a growing international literature on the importance of local social services in relation to crisis and disaster, yet little is known about this role in the Nordic welfare state context both in terms of the institutional frame and in terms of practice. This paper focuses on the role of social work in social services and in other welfare institutions in the emergency management system in the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It draws upon a recent and on-going comparative studies in the regard. It provides an overview of the roles in respective state, characteristics of the role of social work in times of disaster, as well as how disaster social work is addressed in the social work education in the respective countries.

Organization:

Four paper presentations and discussion

Keywords:

Disaster, Disaster social work, Emergency management and Social services