

Review of: "Exploring the Role of Social, Economic, and Cultural Factors in Community Development: A Social Work Perspective in T/A Chimwala, Mangochi"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article unknowingly provokes debates into the community work versus community development that has dominated the social work curriculum over recent years. This article by Zaipa and Matemba provides a refreshing uptake of the scholarly challenges between defining two key concepts, that of community work as an embedded methodology of social work, and that of community development as entrenched in social development.

Zaipa and Matemba's study within an indigenous community in the southern region of Malawi, provides insights into a community and a topic that is under-researched.

It would be advantageous for the authors to strengthen the article, and affirm the niche area that this study would have filled. Thus a solid problem statement would enhance the basis of the research. Additionally, more effort and focus should be placed on the methodology which lacks sound research strategies and thus neglecting key aspects of trustworthiness and reliability of the findings. Ultimately it is the methodology that readers, academics and researchers alike place trust and hope so that they may use this study as a basis for further research. However, as it stands, it is difficult to accept the findings without wondering about why the glaring gaps in the methodology were not covered. This then affects the analysis of the findings which should have used aspects from the theoretical framework as its basis. Using key concepts of the strengths-based theoretical framework to analyse the data would have served to enhance the data. Has the authors adhered to sound research strategies and a sound analysis of the data, this study would have made an invaluable contribution to the limited research out there in this very vulnerable region of Malawi.

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