



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

# **POLICY PRACTICE IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN ISRAEL**

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# A Brief Overview of S.W. Education in Israel

- Social work has existed as a formal and organized profession for over **eighty years**
- The first s.w education program was established in Jerusalem in **1934**
- **10 schools** of social work
- The degree that enables social workers to practice social work is the **BSW**
- The MSW degree is an advanced study degree open **only** to candidates who are social workers
- S.W. schools have a large degree of **discretion** over their training agenda

Policy practice  
has been enjoying  
growing attention  
during the last 10 years in Israel

# Five facets of the integration of policy practice into S.W. education

1. Growth in the number of university courses directly focused on policy practice
2. The development of new policy practice tracks
3. The establishment of forums or clinics for policy practice
4. More joint university-community projects aimed at influencing policies
5. More in-service policy practice programs for social workers

# A MSW Hands-on Seminar

- a. All students, not only those who specialize in macro-practice, should receive education in p.p
- b. Classroom instruction should link policy to practice, by showing the crucial role that policies play
- c. Learning should be experiential, active, 'hands-on', and problem- based
- d. Classes should be small, so as to enable active discussion

**INCORPORATION OF  
POLICY PRACTICE TASKS  
INTO THE GENERAL  
SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY  
COURSES**

# A Clinic for Policy Change







ה'שנ'ל  
תשפ"ב





# Why is this so?

Transnational transfer of ideas

Local change agents

Societal events

# Challenges

- ① How to increase policy practice opportunities both in the explicit and implicit curriculum
- ① How to adopt an integrative approach in teaching policy practice, while avoiding the artificial split between micro and macro practice
- ① How to bridge the gap between the growing place of policy practice in social work academia and its still marginal place in most social work agencies

