

The empowerment perspective, which serves as a context and foundation to facilitate social justice and cross-cultural awareness, implies active collaboration with client systems in an atmosphere of equality and mutuality in which the goals of intervention include maximizing social support and achieving a balance between self-sufficiency and interdependency. As an orientation to the needs of marginalized populations, it focuses on the means to mediate the role powerlessness plays in creating and perpetuating social problems at the intra-personal, interpersonal, family, group, organizational, and community level. While viewed primarily as a goal, our program also considers empowerment as a process and as a form of intervention.