



***“Investing in Africa’s Future”***

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY,  
HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION**

**NHSW 314 REFLECTIVE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN SOCIAL  
WORK**

**END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS  
(MAIN PAPER)**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021**

**LECTURER: MR. MUSHAYAMUNDA. M.**

**DURATION:            WITHIN 5 HOURS**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Do NOT write your name on the answer sheet.  
Answer One question from the Three questions.  
Begin your answer for each part of the question on a new page e.g a) , b) and c).  
Each question is worth a total of 100 marks.  
Credit is given for neat, well-written and lucid work.

1. Using practical examples, demonstrate how a reflective social worker ensures the reliability of his/her interpretations when dealing with a client’s problems.
2. **Case: Rhoda, Nicholas and Rumbidzai**

Mother: Ashleigh, age 30, (Divorced from Babington)  
Father: Babington, age 31, (Divorced from Ashleigh)  
Children: Rhodha, age 11, Nicholas, age 8, and Rumbidzai, age 5,  
Boyfriend: Mubhudha, age 26, (living with Ashleigh and children)

*You are working at as a Social Worker for the Department of Social Welfare at Mutare Provincial offices. A case is assigned to you of a girl called Rumbidzai who was observed touching her genitals, touching genitals of another boy and kissing him, and getting on top of another boy. Before this incident it was observed that she usually played alone and rarely talked to other children. When you engaged her, Rumbidzai appeared unashamed of her behavior and made no attempt to hide it. You then contact her mother and arranged for a meeting and a home visit. During the visit Rumbidzai revealed that her brother, Nicholas, had asked her to perform oral sex on him and that he touches her peepee more times. Ashleigh appeared shocked by the news. You observe that Ashleigh and her children reside in three roomed cottage together with her Mubhudha who is unemployed and usually baby-sit the children. You also observe that pornographic video tapes and magazines were left on the table and a shelf in the living room. In interviews with the children, you find that the children communicate no fear of Mubhudha and sometimes refer to him as "Daddy". Rhodha likes going out at night because she does not want to hear her mother having sex with her boyfriend through the walls. The children appear to be physically healthy and attend school on a regular basis. Rhodha and Nicholas are in their proper grading levels. Their biological father Babington remarried and is taking care of his stepson, he does not pay child support and does not have time with them. They sometime call their mother's boyfriend 'daddy'.*

**Question:** Based on the case above, submit an analytical assessment report to your supervisor, answering the main questions that guide the five stages of analytical assessment in reflective social work practice.

### **3. Case: Macase the social work intern at Mutare City Council**

*In January of 2020, Macase, a social work student from Africa University joined Mutare City Council as an intern and was quickly assigned to work with people in illegal settlements in around the city. At this time the rate at which illegal settlements were erupting around the city was alarming with people living in inhuman circumstances. Macase was curious to understand why so many people were facing housing challenges in a city that has the responsibility to allocate people land to build their homes. He thought of what it means to be homeless and even remembered the challenges her single mother faced to get them decent accommodation before they moved to their own house. Macase decided to gather people in different illegal settlements and use the critical reflection approach to understand contextual circumstances to their housing problems. Macase posed questions for discussion like why they were failing to have homes like other people in the city. Why they were failing to pay rent in legal settlements while they build their own houses? Why they were failing to qualify for city council housing facilities for deserving poor? From these engagements it was discovered that most of these people had registered their names and even paid councils required fees to be allocated stand but were never prioritized. Amongst these people were pensioners who complained that despite having been put on the waiting list for the most of their working life, they were never considered by city council. They were also worried that even if council would allocate them land, their government pension was as good as useless to fund their housing needs. They even complained about prominent people and politicians whose names and those of their relatives were repeatedly considered for residential stands. People even complained that council was focusing on destroying their structures labeling them as illegal instead of regulating them. Another critical theme was that they needed to pay council officials some money as bribe to be considered for stands. When the intern was walking around the settlements, he discovered a lot of children were sleeping in shacks and shabby environments which could not protect them from the rain or the cold in winter. It qucckly dawned on him that there could be a possibility for government and the city of Mutare to build them decent temporary structures. Back in the office Macase did not stop thinking about the conditions of the people in illegal settlements, their welfare, their children and what the council can do to make life better and bearable.*

**Question:** As a reflective social worker, how would you assess the above case using theoretical ideas of:

- (a) John Dewey's Reflective Inquiry
- (b) Schon's Reflective Practice
- (c) Paulo Freire's critical consciousness