

SOCIAL WORK VS VOLUNTEERING



Social Workers and volunteers are both important members of the social service ecosystem in the community, but are often confused for each other despite having very different roles and functions. So what is social work and volunteerism and how are they different?

"Social Workers" refer to graduates and current practitioners with **social work qualifications**



Volunteers do not require any formal qualifications to carry out their work

QUALIFICATIONS

Social workers not only work with individuals on a case-by-case basis but are also involved in a whole range of tasks that involves communities and societal systems. Social workers are guided by a **Code of Practice** that ensures safe practice and upholds the professionalism of Social Work.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteers are usually involved in short-term projects and help out with tasks that do not require professional intervention. These include visits to homes for the elderly, cleaning homes, tutoring youths etc. A volunteer is also not held to a professional code of practice.

Social Work is a career and Social Workers are paid professionals. It is a profession that requires proper qualifications and rigorous training. Social Workers are therefore **compensated accordingly**.



COMPENSATION

Volunteers participate in tasks out of goodwill and do not expect monetary compensation in return. Anyone can be a volunteer if they choose to do so, but not everyone can be a Social Worker.