

Integrating Practice Research into Social Work Field Education



Context

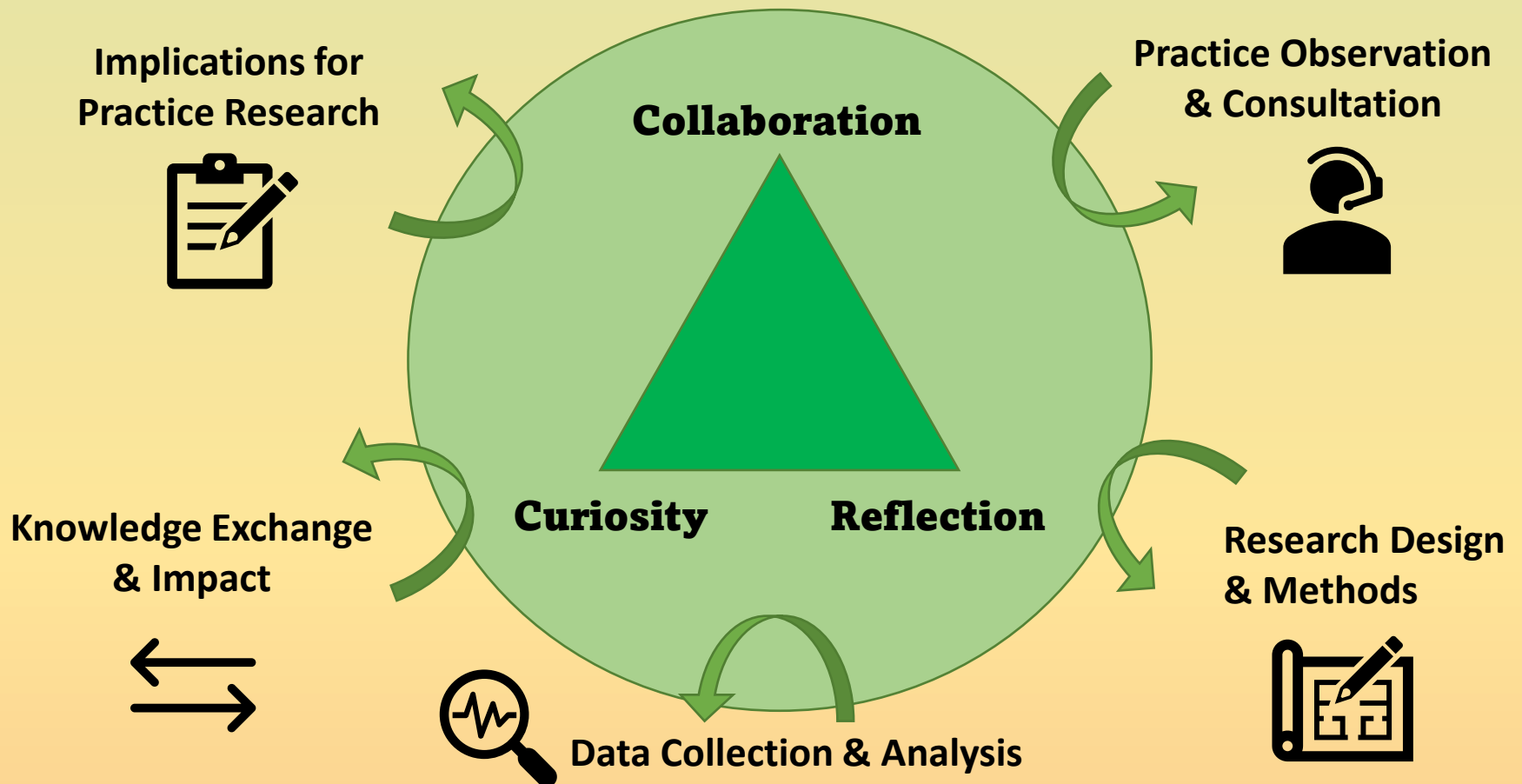
- Traditional social work field education focuses on practice-based skills and the integration of theory.
- Social work students often experience a lack of understanding of how research informs practice.
- There is a long-held assumption that knowledge is developed by researchers and then applied by practitioners rather than being co-created.

Practice Research

- A collaborative process that bridges the gap between research and practice.
- A way to understand individual, group, and organizational environments.



Practice Research on a Continuum



Practice Research in Action

- No single overarching methodology or formula.
- Effective methods typically emerge based on practice context and research questions.
- Research can be conducted at all levels of practice.
- The impetus for practice research starts in the curriculum and teaching.

Recommendations

- Incorporate practice research into research courses and field learning agreements.
- Offer field instructors training on practice research for use in their agencies.
- Demonstrate how research and practice activities are parallel processes.
- Evaluate how practice research is adopted in field education.