Empirical Practice Model of Social Work

- There is and can be no such thing as effectiveness until there is measurable positive change in the client's problem.

- The scientific and professional basis for the Empirical Practice Model resides in the fact that measured positive change in the client's problem is shown to be a function of the services we provide.

- Equations for the Empirical Practice Model:

  a. $\Delta CP = CP_1 - CP_2$

     Where ΔCP is the change in the client's problem(s), and CP_1 is the measurement of the client's problem(s) at the beginning of intervention, and CP_2 is the measurement of the client's problem(s) at the end of the intervention.

  b. $\Delta CP = f(x_i) + f(E_j) + f(I_l) + e$

     Where ΔCP is the change in the client's problem(s), f means the "function of," x represents the intervention, E represents environmental factors, and I represents internal forces, and e represents the recognition of the lack of perfect prediction (error). The i, j, and k subscripts represent that there may be multiple interventions, environmental factors, or internal forces. Thus the change in the client's problem is a function of the intervention plus the effects of environmental factors, internal forces, and random error.

- Three Fundamental Procedures of the Empirical Practice Model:
  1. Measure the client's problem(s).
  2. Measure the client's problem(s) repeatedly over time.
  3. Assess the extent to which positive change in the client's problem(s) is associated with the intervention.

- Human service practitioners are required by the ethics of their profession to learn about and use those services or interventions that have been shown through credible scientific evidence to have a high likelihood of producing desired positive change.

Source: Nugent, W. R., Sieppert, J. D., & Hudson, W. W. (2001). *Practice Evaluation for the 21st Century.* Belmont: Brooks Cole.