

Programme: Master in Social Work, Semester-II, CC-5 & Rural S, Semester IV (DSE) Unit-5
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Content:

ROLE OF SOCIAL CASE WORK PRACTICE:

Introduction

Human behavior occurs within a community, it is ever present and continuous. Individuals develop through the interactions with others.

Social Work is defined as the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques to counseling or to helping an individual, family, group, or community to enhance or restore the capacity for social functioning and/or provide, obtain, or improve tangible social and health services.

Social case work is primary method of social work profession. A social case worker deals with individual problems through one to one relationship which is guided by professional knowledge of the social case worker. Under method the social case worker attempts to repair the impaired relationship of the client with his social environment and through a guided interaction he/she enables the client to adapt with his/her social environment.

Social worker understands that humans are social beings; these social creature's growth and development need the guidance of nurturing and protection provided by others around them. It's this inter-connectedness and interdependence of people in the social environment that is the foundation of practice in social work as a profession. The environment a person lives in has a lot to do with how a social worker may apply knowledge and guidance.

The generalist approach allows the social worker to gain skills for working with individuals, families, small groups, organizations and communities. The rationale for this type of practice is solely based on the structural normality's in the majority of rural areas. These areas are usually characterized by a lack of formal resources which includes the services of private social entities.

There are two distinct types of social work practice:

Direct Practice

Direct practice is when the social worker works directly with an individual, family, or group of people. The first direct meeting can occur in a variety of ways such as a crisis, voluntary, or involuntary. The first meeting is a critical point in establishing a good helping relationship. A social worker should prepare for any type of first contact, so that they may set up the best relationship possible with the client

Indirect Practice

Indirect practice is generally when the social worker is involved in activities that consist with facilitating change through programs and policies. This type of practice is more of behind the scenes and is aimed to help prevent problems from developing. Also, the social worker may participate in this type of practice by advocating through agency administrators, legislators, or other powerful people to effect a change.

Roles of Social or Social Case Worker

- Clinical Social Worker
- Psychiatric Social Worker

- Child and Family Social Worker
- Social and Human Service
- Healthcare Social Worker
- Welfare/personnel officer
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker
- School Social Worker
- Mobilize/Programmers
- Community Social Worker
- Community Health Workers and Administrators
- Social and Community Service manager
- Group Social Worker
- Health Educator
- Public Policy Social Worker
- Administrative Social Worker
- Research Social Worker
- Research Assistant
- Environmental Health Workers and Administrators
- Healthcare Administrator
- Public Health Administrator

Work out of Social Work (People They Serve)

Most of social workers spend their days working with people. The type of work social workers or case workers do vary based on the groups of people they serve. Common groups of people that social workers serve include:

- Women/Children/Youth
- Older adults
- People with disabilities
- Patients with chronic, acute or terminal diagnoses
- People coping with grief or loss
- People with mental illnesses
- People struggling with addiction
- People with Weaker Section

Scope/Setting (Where They Work)

Scope of social work implies to what extent we can intervene social work. It may also imply to the areas or fields where social work can be applied by using its methods, tools and techniques. Social work as professional practice extends from a single individual to the largest body like UNO. The scope of social work can be broadly classified into

- The agencies-non-governmental, semi-governmental or governmental which render social work services;
- The ways (methods) through which they render services such as Case Work, Group Work, Community Organization, Social Action, Social Research, Social Welfare Administration etc and

- The various types of services (fields of social work) that they render to diff individuals, groups and communities keeping in mind the objectives, philosophy and values of social work.

The scope of social work has been changing with the changes in its objectives and with the changing social situation. The profession is increasingly recognized for its unique services to the people and being asked to perform new and varied tasks. Social work as one of the youngest branches of knowledge, is gradually embracing every aspect of human life. Consequently, its scope is gradually expanding. It has now started to become international and inter-racial in scope.

It deals with almost all the groups of the society in the following ways.

Social Insurance

Public Assistance it is a kind of help provided in accordance to the economic and social needs of the applicants. It depends upon the certain conditions and legalities. Therefore public assistance is granted on the basis of 'means test'. Through means test ways and means of living like income source, livelihood and others of individual are identified and measured before providing public assistance by the State Government. In some countries including India such services include the assistance given to old, blind, disabled and destitute.

Family Welfare Services:

Family is both an institution as well as an association. It is the oldest and enduring among all social institutions. It is the first and most important of all forms of associations in the context of human development. Social work renders a significant role in the sphere of family organization. It provides for some material assistance and counseling service to the family relating to marriage, health, economic problems and bringing up siblings. Having the knowledge on human relationship the social worker bears the responsibility of establishing harmonious relationship between the individual and his family. Thus, social worker has to play a crucial role in the field of family organization.

Child Welfare Service

Social workers also provide many welfare services for the children. Those include residential institutions for their care and protection, education and rehabilitation of socially handicapped children vise, orphans destitute fondling children of unmarried mothers. Child Welfare service also includes temporary homes for children, daycare centers, recreational and cultural facilities, holiday homes for the children of low income families.

Community Welfare Service

Community is another important unit for social work practice. The community welfare service includes the establishment of urban community development center dealing with the welfare aspects of slum improvement such as slum clearance, sanitation, health education and care, seeking employment for women, dormitories and night shelters for migrant homeless people, holiday home for children and community welfare service in rural areas etc.

Women Welfare Service

Women are the driving forces of a nation. Long before the dawn of Indian freedom it was realized that social reform with emancipation of women was the 'sine-qua-non' of political

independence of the country. Therefore women specific programmes have been initiated for the welfare of the same. The programme of women welfare in India includes safe motherhood, women protection, family counseling, marriage counseling, and income generation programme for women etc.

Labor Welfare Service

The term labor welfare is very comprehensive in the sense of its understanding. It involves different interpretations due to different social customs and degrees of industrialization.

According to the report of the ILO worker's welfare should mean to such services, facilities and amenities which may be established in on the vicinity of the undertakings to enable the persons employed in them to perform their work in a healthy, congenial surrounding and provided with amenities conducive to good health and high morals. Social work has a wide field of application for labor welfare which includes the activities such as family management counseling, counseling safety maintenance, advocacy for labor rights, health education, value education etc.

In India, labor welfare activities have been undertaken by mainly three agencies namely, the government, the employers and the employees' (labours') union. The first one is statutory and rests two are voluntary in nature.

Welfare Service for the Handicapped

Handicapped people or the disable are another needy section of the Indian population. Hence, social work or social welfare has a formidable role in working for them. The welfare service for disabled includes institution for the care and rehabilitation of physically and mentally retired, hostels for the working handicapped, small production units for the differently able, special schools for mentally retire children and orthopedically challenged and counseling service for mentally depressed etc.

Welfare Services for the Aged and Infirm

People in the twilight of their age require numerous supports from the society. Social work in this regard has a greater role in understanding their needs and working for their satisfied and comfortable life for a happy ending. The activities of social work for the aged and infirm include running old age home, recreational facilities, physical support, psychological support etc.

School Social Work:

At times there are instances of problems due to impaired relationship between students and their social environment and teachers and their social environment. There are also many other problems in the school environment

Which are responsible for educational malfunctioning in the schools? Social work as profession steps in to such environment and attempts modify the situation in favour of the learners and teachers where required. The activities of social work intervention in schools include counseling service to the children and their parents, counseling to the teacher on the perspectives of the emerged problems, etc.

Correctional service:

Correctional Setting refers to the institutions like jail, probation home, parole home, juvenile shelters etc. where people (including children) with unusual behaviour and reaction are placed

to bring correction to their attitude and behaviour. Social work has vast scope for intervention in this field of service. It includes recreational activities, counseling, vocational training for the unemployed criminals, after care service, rehabilitation etc.

Youth Welfare Service:

Youth is the stage of life in which through training and development human being can contribute the best for the betterment of the society and for the betterment of their own. The life of youth should have the opportunity to for self-expression, companionship, community life and national service.

Welfare for the weaker sections:

Social work as a profession is increasingly being recognized for its unique service to the people and being asked to perform new and varied tasks. The concern of social work for prevention as well as treatment of individual and social problems gives the profession an ever increasing number of important responsibilities to assume in helping to social policy in addition to improving services to the people. In meeting these multiple responsibility to the society, social work has achieved its best results not through its working alone, but in cooperation with the other professions and groups whose common concern is welfare of the people.

Most of social workers work in an office setting, though many spend a large portion of their time visiting clients in their homes, schools, and in the community. Social workers most often work in the following settings:

- Hospitals, medical clinics, and nursing homes
- Community mental health agencies and substance misuse clinics
- State and local governments including child welfare agencies and departments of health and human services
- Schools and other youth-serving organizations
- Military bases and veterans affairs clinics
- Correctional facilities
- Private practices
- Industries
- Non government Agencies
- Disaster setting
- Welfare society/Trust

Overall, Social Work/Social Case Work aims to solve psycho-social problems which obstruct the social advancement of an individual.

Reference:

- *Sheafor, B. W., & Horejsi, C.R. (2008). Techniques and guidelines for social work practice. Boston, MA: Pearson Education.*