

Social Welfare Administration

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Introduction

Administration

Administration is a cooperative human effort towards achieving some common goals. Thus every group activity involves administration, whether in a family, factory, hospital, university, or a government department. Whenever two or more people cooperate in view of doing a thing that cannot be taken up alone, the concept of administration appear.

In simple language, it means the 'management of affairs' or 'looking after the people'. To administer is to manage, direct and serve.

L.D. White (1948) views that "the art of administration is the direction, coordination and control of many persons to achieve some purpose or objective."

Social Administration

To achieve the aims and objectives of social welfare, the government formulates social policies and programmes and in pursuance thereof enacts social legislation, allocates financial assistance and provides organisational and administrative linkages in the form of ministries and departments. It also seeks the partnership of non-governmental organisations for the effective implementation of various social welfare programmes.

Administration of all these activities being undertaken in the sphere of social services and social welfare is considered as falling in the realm of social welfare administration.

According to Richard M. Titmus, 1948, “Social administration may broadly be defined as the study of social services whose object is the improvement of conditions of life of the individual in the setting of family and group relations.”

Social Welfare Administration

Social welfare administration is a process through which social policy is transformed into social services. It involves the administration of public and private agencies.

The following definitions are given to elaborate the meaning of social welfare administration.

John C. Kidneigh (1950) defines social welfare administration as the “process of transforming social policy into social services... a two way process: (i) transforming policy into concrete social services and (ii) the use of experience in recommending modification of policy. This definition, of course, encompasses the idea that administration is the process of transforming policies into action programmes.

According to Walter A. Friedlander (1958) ‘administration of social agencies translates the provisions of social legislation of social agencies and the aims of private philanthropy and religious charities into the dynamics of services and benefits for humanity.

Features of Social Welfare Administration

A summary of features highlighting distinctiveness of social welfare administration is given below:

It is concerned with social agencies and helps them to achieve their objectives within target community. It is specifically concerned with identification of social objectives and formulation/ implementation of programmes.

From functional point of view, it encompasses three facets of social problems: (i) Restoration of impaired social functioning; (ii) Provision of resources, social and individual, for more effective social functioning; (iii) Prevention of social dysfunction.

Social welfare administration requires optimum utilization of its available resources together with active community participation, so that the ultimate goal of programmes can be achieved properly.

Social welfare agencies have to earmark certain portion of their resources for survival. But this should not limit their capacity to achieve in quantitative and qualitative terms.

Contents of social welfare administration

Social welfare is concerned with-

Social Problems: Assessment of its causes, prevention and treatment through public participation and effective implementation of social legislation.

Social Services: Social services are meant for general public through provision of health, education, housing etc. and make them more effective for the upliftment of disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of society.

Social Security: To make and implement effective social assistance and social insurance provisions. It aims to compensate for the loss of income due to unemployment, disability or death caused by accident and old age through social insurance and social assistance.

Social Policy: To make effective social policy for the welfare of underprivileged sections of the society, to achieve the goals of welfare state through social action.

Social Welfare Administration As A Profession

The simple dictionary meaning of profession indicates one who has acquired Specialised knowledge which is used for instructing, guiding or advising others.

An operational definition of profession may be given as follows:

Profession is an occupation for which specialised knowledge, skills and training are required and the use of these skills is not meant for self-satisfaction but are used for larger interests of the society and the success of these skills is measured not in terms of money alone.

- The various characteristics of a profession can be mentioned as:
- Existence of an organised and systematised body of knowledge;
- Formal method of acquisition of knowledge;
- Existence of an association with professionalization as its goals;
- Formulation of ethical goals; and Service motto.

Definitional Issues: Social Welfare and Its Related Concepts

Social Service: 'Helping the helpless' is social service. It is service rendered to any person on the basis of desire to serve which is inspired by the feeling of helping others. Thus the term 'social service' is used to denote help given by a volunteer to an individual or group at the time of need or to enhance the welfare of individual or the community through personal efforts or by collective action. Social service does not require training in social work or skill in professional techniques.

Social Welfare Services: Thus social services are the services, meant for the normal population. Whereas, social welfare services are designed for the weaker sections of society or services for particular groups of people. The aim of social services on the other hand is to enhance human quality of resources in general. Social welfare services are also enabling services provided to the weaker sections of the community so as to help them to reach the main stream of society.

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Social Security: Social security is the security thatn society furnishes through provision of appropriate services against violation of certain rights to which its members are exposed. These risks are essentially contingencies of life which the individuals of small means cannot effectively provide for by their own ability or foresight alone or even with the helps of their fellow human beings.

Social Work: ‘Help the helpless to help themselves’. Social work is a method or process based on scientific knowledge and skill to assist the individuals, group and communities, with the view to enhance their social functioning to grow in accordance with their knowledge, capacities and capabilities. Therefore, social welfare has been used as an end and social work, as a means for the provision of social welfare.

Social Welfare: Social welfare is an organised system of social services and institutions, designed to aid individuals and groups, to attain satisfying standards of life and health. Social welfare therefore, aims at providing services to weaker sections of the population who because of various handicaps such as physical, mental, economic and social, are unable to make use of social services provided by society or have been traditionally deprived of these services.

Thank You