



Study of Purpose and Objectives of Social Work

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Abstract

The objective of “social work” is to assist those who are in need in order for them to have the ability to cope with their difficulties on their own. It is both a scientific and an artistic endeavour. It is scientific in the sense that information drawn from several disciplines provides the body of knowledge for a social worker, and she uses this theoretical foundation to assist others, i.e., to perform what she preaches. It is necessary to put into practise what the theory suggests. Skill is defined as the ability to do the task at hand. As a result, professional social work must be converted into a professional service by incorporating chosen knowledge and a set of social work values into its practise.

Key Words: Social, Work, Organizations, Humanities, Development etc.

Introduction

“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledges, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. The above definition may be amplified at national and/or regional levels.”

Principles of social work

The practise of social work is driven by a set of abstract ideals as well as a Code of Ethics that are specific to the profession. To guide our engagement with clients, these ideals are turned into generally recognised practise standards. The following is a list of “nine Social Work Principles”, along with a short summary of each of the principles.

- **Acceptance** - is a core social work concept that entails a real comprehension of the clients' needs and situations. Authentic care, responsive listening, purposeful replies that recognise the other person's point of view, and the building of an environment of



mutual respect are all examples of how acceptance is communicated in a professional relationship.

- **Affirming Individuality** – To affirm a client's identity is to identify and respect the distinctive characteristics that make that customer who he or she is. It is a slang expression that meaning "begin where the customer is." Clients want experts to provide them with unique understanding and undivided attention. Individualization necessitates the absence of bias and prejudice, the avoidance of labelling and stereotyping, the awareness and respect of difference, as well as a thorough understanding of human psychology.
- **Purposeful Expression of Feelings** – Clients must be given the opportunity to communicate their emotions to the social worker in an open and honest manner. It is our responsibility as “social workers” to go beyond "just the facts" in order to find underlying sentiments.
- **Non-judgmentalism** – When creating a connection with a customer, it is critical to communicate non-judgmentalism throughout the process. Not that “social workers” don't make choices; rather, it suggests a “non-blaming attitude” and conduct on the part of those in their care. “Social workers” do not assess people as good or evil, nor as deserving or unworthy of their time and attention.
- **Objectivity** – Inextricably linked to non-judgmentalism, objectivity is the notion of viewing circumstances objectively and without prejudice. Social workers must refrain from bringing personal sentiments and preconceptions into their interactions with clients in order to remain impartial in their observations and knowledge.
- **Controlled Emotional Involvement** – In order to have a regulated emotional reaction to a client's circumstance, three components must be present: Feelings that have been said or not said, understanding based on knowledge of how people act, and responding with knowledge and purpose in mind. When responding to a client, the social worker should avoid conveying coldness or lack of concern, while also avoiding being too identified with the client's situation.
- **Self -Determination** – The idea of “self-determination” is founded on the acknowledgement of the right and need of clients to make their own choices and decisions, as well as their ability to do so. “Social workers” have a duty to provide a



collaborative working environment in which individuals may make informed decisions.

- **Access to Resources** – The following guidelines are recommended for social workers in order to ensure that everyone has access to the resources, services, and opportunities that they require; to pay particular attention to expanding choices and opportunities for those who are oppressed or disadvantaged; and to advocate for policy and legislative changes that improve social conditions and promote social justice.
- **Confidentiality** – According to confidentiality or the right to privacy, customers must express their approval before any information about them, such as their name, the substance of talks made with them, one's professional judgement about them, or their record, may be released to third parties.

Purpose and Objectives of Social Work

As stated in the “Preamble to the American Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards: Social work practise promotes human well-being by increasing the opportunities, resources, and capacities of people in their environments and by developing policies and services to correct conditions that restrict human rights and the quality of life." Working to alleviate poverty, inequality, and oppression is the goal of the social work profession. As part of its efforts to promote social and economic justice across the world, the profession is driven by an orientation that places the individual in the environment and a respect for human diversity.

Following that, the Standards go on to define the several goals of social work, which are as “follows:

- To improve human well-being and alleviate poverty, oppression, and other forms of social injustice.
- To improve the social functioning and interactions of individuals, families, groups, organisations, and communities by involving them in the accomplishment of goals, the development of resources, the prevention and alleviation of distress, and the promotion of peace and harmony.”



- To establish and execute social policies, services, and programmes that address the most fundamental human needs while also promoting the development of human capabilities.
- To advocate for policies, services, and resources that promote social and economic justice via social or political acts, as well as to engage in social or political activism.
- To create and use research, information, and skills that will improve the practise of social work.
- It is necessary to create and implement practise in the setting of varied cultural backgrounds.

Because of the simultaneous emphasis on individual or group functioning as well as societal policy, social workers have struggled with professional boundary and identity concerns for a long time. Because of the extensive breadth of practise, particularly in North America, social workers have been unable to develop a cohesive professional identity. These and other difficulties have been exacerbated by “society's ambivalence” regarding social service.

However, although “social work is steeped in humanitarianism and most social workers do not want to see people suffer”, transferring authority and “resources to those who” are not privileged undermines the status quo and has resulted in the absence of “a clear mandate for publicly-funded” programmes in many places. In the past, these characteristics have posed significant challenges to social workers' capacity to fulfil their purpose and achieve their goals.

Core Social Work Values

“There are more than five basic social work ideals that include everything from integrity to individual dignity to compassionate service to social justice to human” connections. These values embrace everything from interpersonal relationships to social justice to interpersonal relationships. The efficacy of social work activities and programmes is dependent on the presence of these key principles. These fundamental codes have a specific function. For example, they provide the moral groundwork for the social worker's organisation and explain the ethical concepts that are utilised to create



professional standards and govern social work activities, among other things. These guidelines assist social workers in recognising their professional duties as well as any legal conflicts of interest. They are public standards that may be used to hold social workers responsible by members of the community.

- **Service**

The fundamental “purpose of social workers” is to provide excellent public service by assisting individuals in need to address, manage, and resolve a wide range of social issues. Social workers must constantly put the public good ahead of their own self-interest and personal benefit in their profession. Using their skills and experience, social workers assist their clients in overcoming major social issues such as drug addiction, child abuse, home instability, and criminal activity. Social workers often donate their time and expertise to non-profit organisations as a way of giving back to the community.

- **Social Justice**

As advocates for social justice, social workers try to ensure that social injustice is not perpetuated. “They provide social assistance and resources to those who are vulnerable or who are oppressed by society. Their attempts to effect social change are largely focused on poverty, education, housing, unemployment, and discrimination issues. They raise awareness of social justice concerns among the general public and urge people to tolerate cultural differences and to appreciate genetic variety.” Access to fundamental services, resources, and information is ensured by social workers for the people they deal with. “They advocate for equality of opportunity as well as a healthy interaction with customers” and clients.

- **Values**

Social professionals recognise and respect the dignity and worth of each individual. They serve each customer with care and respect, keeping in mind the individual peculiarities, cultural norms, and ethnic variety of the clientele in question. They encourage their customers to exercise socially responsible self-determination in accordance with their own convictions. In order to strengthen their clients' capacity to change, social workers help them identify and address their own needs in order for them to become self-



sufficient. Social workers are constantly conscious of the fact that they are accountable to their clients, the law, and their organisation at the same time. They mediate and settle disputes between clients and society in a polite and socially acceptable manner.

- **Human Relationships**

Human interactions are of essential significance to social professionals, who understand this. They recognise that connections between individuals are vital engines for change, advocacy, and equality, and they work to foster these ties. Clients, other professionals, and community programme personnel are all included as participants in the healing and helping process when social workers work with them. Customers, their families, and communities benefit from their efforts to build connections among individuals and thereby repair and develop the functioning abilities of those they serve. Being patient and communicative are essential characteristics for social workers since their success relies on their capacity to sustain good interactions with people who are hostile or untrustworthy.

- **Integrity**

“Social workers must always conduct themselves in a trustworthy manner. They must be constantly conscious of the objective of their company, the principles of their profession, and their own personal ethical standards. Social workers must behave themselves in public in an honest and responsible manner in order to encourage their colleagues and to promote” their organisation. Social professionals must consistently develop their job knowledge in order to preserve their integrity. To do so, they must continuously increase their career competence.

Social workers adhere to a set of basic beliefs that ensures that individuals in need get adequate assistance and services. Anyone who wishes to pursue a career as a licenced social worker will require a master's degree that has been authorised by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). They maintain a register of bachelor's and master's degree programmes that have been authorised. A useful list of distinct social work career and certification specialities is also provided by the organisation.

Conclusion

Modern states are built on democratic ideals and public-benefit philosophies that promote the common good. The ideas of people's involvement in governmental work and policy



for people's welfare developed and activated governmental action, and they engaged the government in order to stimulate greater and more social welfare for the general population. Generally speaking, emerging nations established a variety of social policies to assist the less advantaged elements of society to integrate into the national mainstream of socio-economic growth. In order to address this, the idea of wellbeing, which refers to a broad sense of socio-economic development, was developed and put into practise. Furthermore, it gives information for social workers to use in both the development of theory and the practise of social work. Yet another major goal of social work has always been to concentrate on evaluating practitioners' work with individual clients or groups of clients, families, or communities, or to evaluate agencies or programmes that are concerned with the ongoing efforts of practitioners with a large number of clients.

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