
SOCIAL WORK-INTRODUCTION



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Social Work - Definition

According to W A Friedlander, “Social Work is a professional service based upon scientific knowledge and skill in human relations which assists individuals, alone or in groups, to obtain social and personal satisfaction and independence”.

The functions of social work include:

- Restoration of impaired social functioning
- Provision of resources
- Prevention of social dysfunctioning



FUNCTIONS OF SOCIAL WORK

- ❖ Provision of resources has two aspects, the developmental and the educational.
- ❖ The developmental aspect is designed to enhance effectiveness of the resources and to improve personality factors for effective social interaction. The educational spectrum is designed to acquaint the public with specific conditions and needs for new or changing situations, and that is the educational aspect of the function provision of resources.



FUNCTIONS OF SOCIAL WORK

- ❖ The third function of social work is prevention of social dysfunctioning. It includes early discovery, control or elimination of conditions and situations that potentially could, hamper effective social functioning.



Goals of Social Work

- To solve psycho social problems
- To fulfill humanitarian needs
- To solve problems in adaptation
- To create self-sufficiency and independence
- To make harmonious social relations
- Develop democratic values
- Provide opportunities for development and socio legal aid
- Change the environment in favor of individual growth and development
- Bring change in social system for social development



Methods of Social Work

Social Work has primary and secondary methods.

The primary methods include:

- ✓ Social Case Work
- ✓ Social Group Work
- ✓ Community Organisation

The secondary methods of social work are:

- ✓ Social Work Research
- ✓ Social Welfare Administration
- ✓ Social Action



Principles of Social Work

Social work is a profession which functions on the basis of a set of principles, and they are:

- Principle of Acceptance
- Principle of Individualisation
- Principle of Communication
- Principle of Self-determination
- Principle of Confidentiality
- Principle of Non-judgmental Attitude
- Principle of Controlled Emotional Involvement



Values of Social Work

Social work values focus on three general areas (Dubois & Miley, 1999) :

☐ Values about people;

- Inherent worth, integrity and dignity of the individual (Friedlander, 1977).
- Belief in democratic functioning.
- Equal opportunity for all, limited only by the individual's capacities (Friedlander, 1977).

☐ Values about social work in relation to society

- Social worker's social responsibility towards himself, his family, and his society (Friedlander, 1977).



Values of Social Work

□ Values that inform professional behaviour.

- To transmit knowledge and skills to others (Sheafor & Morales 1989).
- Separating personal feelings from professional relationships (Sheafor & Morales 1989).
- Assumes high standards of personal and professional conduct (Sheafor & Morales 1989). It emphasizes that the conduct of the social worker should be exemplary at both personal and professional levels. It is essential that a social worker be a person of high integrity and of high ethical conduct.



THANK YOU...