UNIT 4: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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4.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- Identify historical milestones in the development of social work in USA, UK and India
- Understand the historical development of social work education in India
- Identify the basic components of a profession and discuss on whether social work is a profession.

4.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous unit we have studied the concepts related to social work that form important components of social work profession. The discipline of social work has a long history of evolution from charity -based tradition to the autonomous profession of today. The concern of professionalizing and acadamizing social work across the globe became a significant issue in the beginning of the twentieth century in the west including Europe and the U.S. From the West, social work as a professional discipline has spread over the world. Thus, in this unit, let us discuss how social work has indeed a rich history in micro and macro practice that addresses individual and community needs as well as confronts their root causes by challenging systems, institutions, and policies that keep oppression/privilege intact.

4.3 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Social work has developed through centuries like any other discipline. As discussed in the previous unit, social work has evolved through various concepts like social service, social welfare and finally a professional approach as social work. This discipline attained a professional status very recently. It was developed through the practice of charity, social service, welfare measures, etc. Today social work has travelled a long way from welfare to empowerment and development and the present emphasis of the profession is protecting and promoting people's rights. In this unit we review the histories of social work development with emphasis on USA, UK and India.

4.4 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK IN USA

The need to help other people is stressed by the major religions. During the Elizabethan period the needy people were helped by the authorities. Such charity works are called 'relief of the paupers'. The Victorian reformers

who were distressed by poverty, child neglect and other social ills were pioneers in many of today's social welfare services, although they too had called such services by various other names such as organized charity or philanthropic work or 'relief of destitution'.

The historical development of social work in USA can be divided into the following stages:

- The Colonial period (1620-1776)
- Civil war and Industrial Revolution (1776-1860)
- Industrialism-the human side (1860-1900)
- Social work seeking professional characteristics(1900-1940)
- Highly professionalized discipline.(1940)

The development of social work in the United States reflects an ongoing synthesis of ideas derived from many different cultures. Social welfare services have indeed existed in USA since the establishment of the original thirteen colonies on the eastern board. The English people, who settled here, brought with them their customs, laws and ideas. Elizabethan poor law served as the basic pattern for extending financial assistance to persons in need. Assistance to the poor in their homes (outdoor relief) was the initial method followed in the growing colonial towns.

The Civil War stimulated the emergence of large-scale private social welfare initiatives, such as the US Sanitary Commission and the Red Cross. In the War's aftermath, the short-lived Freedmen's Bureau (the first Federal social welfare program) provided assistance to newly emancipated slaves. State boards of charity arose to improve the management of institutions constructed during the previous generation. In the half century after the Civil War, rapid industrial expansion produced a dramatic increase in individual and community needs. The most notable social changes of this period included a series of economic depressions (known then as "panics") and their consequences; new manifestations of racism following the end of Reconstruction in 1876; and a dramatic increase in immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe.

Using concepts derived from business and industry, reformers attempted to respond to some of these developments by regulating public



"Scientific Charity" is regulated Public relief distribution system.

relief distribution through so-called *"scientific charity."* In 1877, the first American Charity Organization Society (COS) based on such principles was founded in Buffalo, New York. The main functions of the COS were three fold- first the rehabilitation of families which for any reason fail to be self sufficient, second the education of the community in correct principles of relief and third aid in the elimination of the causes of poverty.

Another development was in regard to Settlement houses. Rapid urbanization, industrialization and immigration produced social settlement movement in the USA. This movement combined social advocacy and social service with proper intervention through group work and neighbourhood organization strategies. The settlement house workers established neighbourhood centres and offered services such as citizenship training, adult education, counselling, recreation and daycare. The social group work, social action and community organization methods have emerged from Settlement House Movement. The rapid growth of manufacturing industries aggravated the pathetic condition of children, so Children Aid Society (1854) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1857) were started in New York City. This led to the formation of Child Welfare Movement. The aim of the agencies was to rescue children from inadequate homes and from the streets.

Development of Professional Social Work Education in the USA

The employment of paid staff and their training by Charity Organization Societies (COS) facilitated a shift from the unorganized charity and social service to the beginning of an organized and systematic social work. The first such training centre organized by New York Charity Organization Society (NYCOS) in 1898 is currently known as the Columbia University. Hospital based training and social work services were also initiated around the same time at Boston Hospital. The First World War increased the casualties among the poor, consequently various wartime charity programmes were initiated and Welfare Acts were passed .World War I provided unique opportunities for social case workers to prove the necessity of their skills. Thus the prestige of social work rose up in war related activities such as

the Red Cross home services. Mary Richmond could be considered the first professional social worker in the US. She became the assistant treasurer of Baltimore Charity Organization Society. Later on she became practitioner, teacher and theoretician of the Charity Organization Movement. In the National Conference on Charities and Corrections held at Toronto, she advocated the establishment of training schools for professional social workers (1897). The other group of social workers like Hane Addams, Florance Kelly, Edith argued for bringing of legislation to improve the working conditions of neighbourhood organizations. The book 'Social Diagnosis' by Mary Richmond in 1917 is considered as the foundation for the theoretical basis of social work .Chicago School and Boston school formed the second and third schools of social work in the USA respectively. The American Association of Schools of Social Work was founded in 1919 to facilitate communication among the schools which reflected a different type of organizational response to the impact of industrialization and immigration and introduced an alternative model of a social service agency a form of urban mission. The first US settlement, the Neighborhood Guild in New York City, was established in 1886. Three years later, Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr founded Hull House in Chicago, which became the most famous American settlement.

4.5 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK IN UK

The history of social work in the UK had gone through various phases. They are:

A.D 1200 to 1500 - From the beginning of religion the priests assumed leadership in providing protection for the helpless widows, orphans and the sick. Charity was promoted primarily by the desire to receive the grace of God to secure the merits of good deeds for eternal life. In the beginning of the14th century the poor were divided into two categories; able-bodied and destitutes.

A.D 1501 to 1600 - Citizens were discouraged from giving alms to the able-bodied beggars. In 1541 Henry VI issued license for begging in restricted areas; punishment was given to those who violated the law - In1572, Queen Elizabeth introduced general tax for the protection of the poor and appointed overseers of the poor. Thus the government was held responsible for the maintenance of the poor. The church, especially monasteries played the role of relief centres to the destitute and the disabled. Alms were collected and distributed by the parish and other clergymen who knew the individual and his situation. The churches did not make any effort to provide any permanent remedy for improving the conditions of the poor. Later the responsibility was shifted from the church to the Government.

A.D 1600 to 1800 - Elizabethan Poor Law introduced in 1601 was a landmark in the history of organized social welfare. This law ensured many relief provisions for the eligible poor. The law also insisted the able bodied beggars to work in 'work houses'. The poor were divided into three categories: able bodied, impotent poor and the dependent child. The overseers of the poor were responsible for the execution of the poor law. They verified eligibility and selected the applicants. The work house act passed in 1692 made provisions for the training of the inmates of work houses.

A.D.1800 to 1900 - In this period social scientist Adam Smith stated that government should minimize its involvement in any field for any purpose as it will lead to much dependency. Malthus is of the opinion that 'if there were a lot of free services, this will lead to the desire for more children'. So he recommended an end to the charity work. As per the recommendations of the Royal commission (1842) able bodied continued to work in able bodied homes and better help for slum dwellers were provided in 1844. In the Factories Act (1844) only minimum welfare facilities were provided to the industrial workers. The formation of charity organization society was an important milestone in the development of charity programmes.

London Charity Organization Society was the first such organization formed in the year 1869. They undertook the following strategies to help the needy effectively:

- Stopped giving alms.
- Co-ordinate the distribution of relief.
- Verified each application carefully.
- Conducted interviews to assess the genuineness of the applicants.
- Formulated plans for the treatments.

Settlement House Movement -Cannon Samuel Augustus Barnet founded University Settlement House which was named as Toynbee Hall. Its objectives were:

- Educational and cultural development of the poor.
- Imparting information to the poor for their improvement.
- Developing consciousness towards health problems and the need for enacting legislation.

A.D 1900 onwards newly formed Charity Organisation Societies (COS) started to practise professional social work and began to provide training to social workers. In the year 1899 Social work training was started and introduced. At first two years training programme in social work with theory and practice was started.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: How did World War I influence the emergence of welfare bodies?

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4.6 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK IN INDIA

In India, Social work profession began very late and its progress has been neither rapid nor smooth. Here it professional aspect has not been fully recognized. Historically, the tradition of giving assistance to poor, disabled and destitute is very old in India. The development of Social work in India can be grouped as:

Pre- British Period to 1800 A.D : Pre-British system was dominated by caste system, upper caste protected lower caste people in time of same difficulties, some of the important aspects are as follows:

Joint family :- it is like a trust sharing common property. It protected aged, children and women. It served as a social trust.

Village community :- Indian villages were independent in matters of food, clothing and shelter. The whole community used to take each other.

Village Temple :- In every village there were temples. People donated money to the temple and under this system socially backward people were protected.

During the British Period : Before the advent of the British, Indian practically lived in village. Thus the economy of the village was self-sufficient. But under the British rule, India was help as a agrarian country. Only Industries were allowed to develop which provided better opportunities for the investment of British capital. Further, the British rules menaced the organization of production. These economic and organizational changes brought down the economic condition of Indians. All the problems were chiefly related with health, housing, child and woman welfare and labour, recreation, crime and social disorganization. Due to these problems the need for organized social work was realized. British rule was main inspiration for social reform movement. Christian missionaries spread education, brought the theory of equality, which in turn helped the social reforms to attack the evil customs and inequality. There were no property rights for Indian women. Early marriage, inequality, caste system, widow remarriage, custom of Sati was the burning problems of Indian Society. Many social reforms came up to indicate these social evils. Raya Ram Mohan Ray started the Brahma samaj, Swami Dayanand Saraswati started the Arya Samaj, Swami Vivekanand established Ramakrishna mission and Annie Besant started home rule movement against Britishers. They were rendering social welfare services to the needy people. Late Gandhi did a lot of work in the field of social reform, besides due to the impact of the western education, and Christian missionaries, a new term of social work began in Indian. It was based on the idea of democracy and humanitarianism.

Growth of professional training in India : In India, Professional social work is of recent origin. During 1900 onwards, those who were engaged in social welfare activities found the need of trained social workers. Thus, in the year 1905 the revolts of the Indian society started . Then the emergency of Mahatma Gandhi and the rise of sarvodaya movement in 1915 made lot of constructive works in Indian politics. But these Gandhian social workers were not trained and it was not a professional social work. In Indian, professional social work owe its origin to a short-term training course on social service organized by the social service league at Bombay. Till that time social workers (Volunteers) did not get any remuneration or salary. It was simply a social service to the needy people guided by the principle of humanity. Later, the first school of social work was started in 1946 by Clifford marshal, who was a protestant missionary and worked in Nagpada. He came to Indian in 1925 and felt the need of trained social workers. He established the sir Dorabji Tata School of social science in Bombay which offered professional training in social work. The appointed workers were not professional workers, they were Gandhians. Later on different schools of social work came into existence in Delhi, Calcutta, Lucknow, Varanasi, Baroda, Agra, Udaipur etc., which imparted professional training in social work service.

After independence : In the Independent India the source of all welfare service are inherent in the constitution. In order to supervise the social welfare services, the central social welfare Board has been established. The board assists in the improvement and development of social welfare activities Thus, in Indian social work is gradually emerging as a social oriented profession. Social work has come a long way to become an important profession in the modern society. The scope of responsibilities of social work has become wider over the years, and social workers require more extensive training to perform their duties effectively. As social problems grow in the modern society, social work will continue to gain importance around the world.

4.7 DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN INDIA

Social work educations have already completed six decades of existence in India. Looking back at the evolution of the profession, it can be seen that it came into India in response to a felt need for a scientific method for helping people. The idea of establishing an educational institution for social work was first mooted by a westerner and hence social work education in India right from its origin could never claim to be indigenous. The major objective behind the establishment of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Bombay in 1936 was to train manpower to work in Indian conditions. After the establishment of TISS, it remained the only institute of Social work for almost a decade. In the subsequent years many others came up, with the sixties witnessing a spurt of several institutions. At present a number of universities and institutions are offering graduate, post graduate, M. Phil and Ph. D level training in social work. The introduction of social work at higher secondary level resulted in many changes in the field of social work training and practice. In a developing country like India, social workers have a major role in the socio-economic, cultural, health and related areas.

4.8 PROFESSIONALIZATION OF SOCIAL WORK

'Professionalization' is basically a socialization process by which an individual is drawn into the institutional context of particular occupation. Today, like any other helping profession, social work has a set of philosophical assumptions and beliefs, a collection of theories and principles, a well classified taxonomy of concepts, and systematic method for studying, diagnosing and treating the problems faced by the clients. More than anything else, professional social work today has a well defined and refined body of eclectic knowledge drawn from such disciplines as sociology, psychology , economics etc. The following discussion is an attempt to provide an understanding of the various components and dimensions of the profession.

In developing a conceptual framework for understanding the profession, professional social work can be regarded as consisting of five inter-related

segments: 1) professional process 2) professional participants 40 professional methodology 4) professional inputs and 5) professional mileu. Following is a discussion of each of these segments:

Professional process : The mission of social work profession is to help individuals, groups and communities help themselves when faced with problems arising out of the hard realities of life. In carrying out this mission the social worker first tries to analyse the problem and locate its causal roots. Once the client's inadequacies and environmental limitations are identified the social worker proceeds to look into the positive elements in the client and the environment that can be utilized for solving the problem. In arriving at the appropriate solution the client is encouraged by the social worker to try a series of problem solving exercises, at the end of which the right alternative is discovered and the problem is solved.



TISS Bombay was established to train social workers to work in Indian conditions.

Professional participants : The helping process portrayed earlier in this section is no simplistic task. In fact, it has to be undertaken on a highly professional level and hence the success and effectiveness of the process depends to a large extent, on the profile and characteristics of the professional participants who partake in the process. In the professional social work practice, the main participants are- i)the client system with a problem ii) the social worker with his or her level of professional learning and expertise iii) the social work agency with its resources and limitations and iv) the environment of the client with its resources and liabilities.

Professional methodology : Social work methodology comprises of study, diagnosis and treatment. When a client comes to a social worker the first thing the latter does is studying the problem thoroughly. In this phase the focus is on fact-finding and analysis of the problem without jumping into any conclusions. The next phase is the diagnosis phase when the factors both within the client and in the environment, responsible for causing the problem are identified. Treatment is the last phase of the professional methodology of social work. It consists of application of the tools and techniques of social work through which the social worker endeavours to bring about an appropriate adjustment between the client and environment.

Professional inputs : The professional inputs refer to the profession related characteristics and acquisitions of the social worker. These inputs

include; the professional values and assumptions of social work, the guiding principles of social work practice, the professional relationship between social worker and client and the interdisciplinary body of social work knowledge.

Professional milieu : The professional milieu of the helping process in social work comprises of the micro and macro environments in which the entire process occurs. The micro environment is provided by the social work agency which organizes and provides the social work services. The macro component of the professional milieu of social work is the socio cultural context in which the helping process occurs.

As we understand the various segments it is also essential to introspect on the professional traits in social work. These include:

Systematic and scientific knowledge : Social work is based on scientific knowledge. Social work bases its methodology on a systematic body of evidence-based knowledge derived from research and practice evaluation, including local and indigenous knowledge specific to its context.

Skills, techniques and tools : Social work addresses the barriers, inequalities and injustices that exist in society. It responds to crises and emergencies as well as to everyday personal and social problems. Social work utilizes a variety of skills, techniques and tools consistent with its holistic focus on persons and their environments.

Social work education : Social work has a separate identity in the realm of education. In most of the countries there are provisions for graduate and post graduate level of education in the universities and other teaching institutions.

Professional organizations : There are a number of professional organizations on international and national levels.

Social approval : Social work as a profession has been accepted by the respective governments. Both governmental and non-governmental organizations employ trained social workers on various posts.

Code of ethics : A social worker functions in terms of certain basic assumptions. He gives respect to each client and believes in his creative

power. He has full faith in the client's freedom of expression and self judgment. He always operates on the democratic principles and values. He does not believe in any type of discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion etc.

Thus it can be said that social work is a profession because all the essential characteristics are founded in it.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 2: State the meaning of 'Professionalization'

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Q 3: What are code of ethics?

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4.9 LET US SUM UP

- Social work has indeed a rich history in micro and macro practice that addresses individual and community needs as well as confronts their root causes by challenging systems, institutions, and policies that keep oppression/privilege intact.
- The first US settlement, the Neighborhood Guild in New York City, was established in 1886.
- Elizabethan Poor Law introduced in 1601 was a landmark in the history of organized social welfare.
- 'Professionalization' is basically a socialization process by which an individual is drawn into the institutional context of particular occupation.



4.10 FURTHER READING

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4.11 ANSWERS TO 'CHECK YOUR PROGRESS'

Answer 1. The First World War increased the casualties among the poor, consequently various wartime charity programmes were initiated and Welfare Acts were passed .World War I provided unique opportunities for social case workers to prove the necessity of their skills. Thus the prestige of social work rose up in war related activities such as the Red Cross home services. Mary E Richmond could be considered the first professional social worker in the US. She became the assistant treasurer of Baltimore Charity Organization Society. Later on she became practitioner, teacher and theoretician of the Charity Organization Movement.

Answer 2. Settlement House Movement -Cannon Samuel Augustus Barnet founded University Settlement House which was named as Toynbee Hall. Its objectives were:

- Educational and cultural development of the poor.
- Imparting information to the poor for their improvement.
- Developing consciousness towards health problems and the need for enacting legislation.

Answer 3. 'Professionalization' is basically a socialization process by which an individual is drawn into the institutional context of particular occupation. Today, like any other helping profession, social work has a set of philosophical assumptions and beliefs, a collection of theories and principles, a well classified taxonomy of concepts, and systematic method for studying, diagnosing and treating the problems faced by the clients.

Answer 4. Code of ethics are guidelines of any profession that act as the accepted norms. A social worker functions in terms of certain basic assumptions. He gives respect to each client and believes in his creative power. He has full faith in the client's freedom of expression and self judgment. He always operates on the democratic principles

and values. He does not believe in any type of discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion etc.



4.12 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short-Answer Questions

Q.1: What is COS?

Q.2: What does the principle of acceptance mean?

Q.3: What is confidentiality?

Q.4: State the core values of social work.

Long-Answer Questions

Q.1: Discuss the historical evolution of social work in UK.

Q.2: Discuss the debate on whether social work is a profession.

Q.3: Highlight the development of social work education in India.

Q.4: Identify the various principles of social work.