UNIT 13 : AGENCIES OF SOCIAL WELFARE

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13.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to-

- identify the role of international and national agencies associated with social welfare.
- Learn about the initiatives and methods undertaken by the agencies
- understand Social Welfare Administration and its functioning
- identify the agencies of Social Welfare Administration

13.2 INTRODUCTION

Social welfare in India is mostly dominated by the values of humanitarianism, spirituality and individuality. In the recent times, social welfare activities are undertaken by agencies from abroad apart from those within the country. A good number of agencies, from which indulge in social welfare activities and provide assistance to people. The assistance is provided to people in times of natural disasters like famine, floods, earthquakes etc. These are the age old facilities provided by social welfare agencies. However, various agencies have emerged now which concentrate on not only providing assistance to people but also deals with securing wellbeing, social and economic security and good heath of individuals all over the world. These are mainly international agencies of social welfare. According to the international agencies of social welfare, these characteristics are a necessary factor for the maintenance of peace and stability.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Social welfare in India is mostly dominated by values of ..... and individuality.
2. Social Welfare agencies now also deal with securing wellbeing, ... and good heath of individuals all over the world.

13.3 Classification of Social Welfare Agencies

13.3.1 International agencies of social welfare

International activities in social welfare is a recent phenomenon. They can be classified into the following categories-

- Private International Organisations
- Government Agencies of International Character

- Private International Organisations having autonomous organisation in each country
- National Government Agencies extending their work to other countries
- National Private Agencies extending their social service to other countries

India has a number of international agencies which function actively and provide social welfare assistance. Some of them are Red Cross, YMCA and YWCA, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, FAO, International Conference of Social Work, International Union for Child Welfare, The Ford Foundation, etc. All most all of these agencies, have made notable contribution towards the benefit of people in different fields in India.

13.3.2 National agencies of social welfare

The national agencies of social welfare can be categorised into - Non-Government Organisations and the Government Organisations.

- Role of NGOs in Social Welfare- In the context of India, Voluntary organisations play an important part in terms of providing social service. The Report of Working Committee Group on Administrative Machinery for Welfare Programmes observes that the "sphere of social welfare is still largely the domain of voluntary workers and voluntary organisations. They constitute the king-pin of the machinery for the implementation of welfare programmes".

  Some of the important organisations that had played a significant role in welfare activities initially were Brahm Samaj, Arya Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, Theosophical Society, Rama Krishna Mission and the like.. A major area of work by the non- governmental organisations had been in the care and rehabilitation of orphans and destitute people. There had

been non governmental organisations to meet the special requirements and specialised interests of special groups such as the aged, handicapped, women and children. Balkanji Bari, Guild of Service, Children's Aid Society, and ICCW were a few organisations involved in notable child welfare activities. Age-India and Help Age India are the voluntary organisations engaged in the welfare programmes for the aged. In the present times, a number of non governmental organisations in the country have been engaged which engage in the task of helping the drug addicts, cancer patients, Aids patients, alcoholics, mentally challenged and various other target groups. They have made significant contribution in their respective field. The non governmental organizations give more emphasis to rehabilitation services than the government sector.

In 1953, Central Social Welfare Advisory Board was set up to co-ordinate and guide the non governmental efforts. The Board provided technical assistance to VA's and NGOs. As a result of this, large number of Vas were set up. In 1966, the Central Institute of Research and Training in Public Corporation was set up to conduct research on the problems related to Voluntary Sector and to train personnel around the country. This led to an explosive growth in the number of Vas from 12% before independence to 88% after independence.

- Role of government in social welfare- Before India came under British rule, welfare activities such as care of the handicapped, the aged, the destitute, and the children were the responsibilities of the joint family, caste and religious institutions. The government or the rulers assumed only limited responsibility for social welfare. However, Indian society witnessed drastic changes with the advent of British rule. With the onset of urbanization and industrialisation , organised system of social welfare became a necessity.

The government adopted a policy of least intervention in social reform and assumed minimum responsibility for social welfare. Most of the social welfare work was done by the voluntary organisations. However, most of these agencies were ran along communal lines and as such the activities of these agencies were limited to a particular caste or religious group. Although the state instituted rules and laws for controlling crime and vandalism, most laws were reluctantly introduced by the state under the pressure from reformers. However, the government was very active in the welfare of the industrial workers mainly under the pressure from the textile mills in England and later on also due to the work of the philanthropists and early trade union leaders.

After India attained independence, the government faced the problem of refugees who came in large numbers due to the partition of the country. This was a problem of unprecedented magnitude and the government had to organise relief and later rehabilitation measures on a large scale. The task was handled by the government by utilising its administrative machinery and personnel in association with some voluntary social workers and organisations. However, the year 1950 marked a new phase in the role of state in social welfare. The Indian constitution came into force and the Planning Commission was established. Further, Directive Principles of State Policy(DPSP) were introduced which emphasised on the achievement of social, economic and political justice. An elaborated description of this was found in the Articles of the constitution. Article-38 pointed out "to secure and protect a social order which stands for the welfare of the people". As such, various articles of the constitution dealt with specific activities to be undertaken by the state in this direction. Some of the major areas of state activity to achieve the welfare of the people are securing

adequate means of livelihood to all citizens, the protection of the strength and health of workers and avoiding circumstances which force citizens to vocations unsuited to their age or strength, protection of childhood and youth against exploitation or moral and material abandonment, to secure the right to work, education and public assistance in case of the unemployed, old age and sickness. Thus, in conformity to our constitution, many welfare programmes have been included in five year plans. These programmes have taken shape by stages in the course of the plans. The field of welfare services became more organised in the later days with the establishment of a Department of Social Welfare at the centre and the creation of an independent Ministry for Social Welfare. The birth of this department and ministry and its course of progress over the years describe the history of Social Welfare Administration in India.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

3. In how many categories can International Social Welfare Agencies be categorised?
4. Name some international agencies which provide Social Welfare?
5. Name some early VAS which played important role in providing social welfare?
6. Name some organisations of Child Welfare and Old age Welfare?
7. In 1953, what was set up to co-ordinate and guide the non governmental efforts?
8. What does Article 38 of DPSP state?
9. How did the field of Social welfare became more organised?

13.4 Emergence of social welfare and Agencies of Social welfare Administration

13.4.1 Social Welfare Administration

Social Welfare today, is not an individual act of charity but an organised and planned activity where state and government play an important role. The planning, organisation and implementation of welfare activities can be termed as social welfare administration. John C Kidneigh defines Social Welfare as "Social Welfare Administration is the process of transferring the social policy into services and the use of experience in evaluating and modifying policy".

Social Welfare Administration is a continuous process which undergoes through various stages. Planning is the starting point where objectives are clearly defined on the basis of which broad policies are formulated and the ways and means of achieving these objectives are identified. Planning is followed by the organization of the staff by assigning them duties and responsibilities in order to materialize these plans. Appropriate staff needs to be selected, trained and recognised for their work and they also need to be directed properly to get the work done. Further, a social welfare is a collaborative work of people together, it necessitates the co-ordination among the activities of all members concerned in the different stages of this process. The whole activity need to be budgeted because finance appears to be the backbone in materialising these objectives. Finally the whole process needs to be reported. Reports serve as feed back and help in assessing the rate of its success and identifying the limitations according to which necessary modifications can be made in the policies and programmes

13.4.2 Agencies of Social welfare Administration

State entry into the field of social welfare is marked by the establishment of Social Welfare Department and Social Welfare Advisory Board. These are the two agencies through which Social Welfare Administration is carried out in the country. Both these agencies come under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Social Welfare Department is directly involved in providing services for various vulnerable groups. But the coverage of government services is very limited. This gap is filled up by the services given by the NGOs. The administrative authority of the government and non government sector are the Social Welfare Department and Social Welfare Advisory Board.

13.4.2.1 Social Welfare Department

The Planning Commission which was set up in March 1950 initiated to prepare a plan for the effective utilisation of country's resources. It formulated the programmes of social welfare in the country. It was from then that in all the five year plans, budget was allocated to social welfare. The Department of Social Welfare was setup in 1964. Consequently, all the states were allocated a Social Welfare Department. The task of this department is to put up or prepare various welfare schemes and programmes for the under privileged sections in the society. Programmes are devised in each state in accordance with the kind of social welfare needed. The department is directly involved in providing institutional services for various target groups.

13.4.2.2 Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)

The government in free India has realised the role of voluntary efforts in the field of social welfare and felt the need to strengthen and assist the activities of voluntary organisations. As such, the CSWB was set up by the Government of India on 12 August 1953. The Board was created to administer the programme of grant in aid to voluntary welfare organization and to provide sponsorship for new

welfare services through non-official organizations. This board deals with the welfare of women, children and the handicapped. The CSWB was an autonomous body with the powers of decision making and administration. It was set up within the First Five year plan itself. The functions of CSWB were to assist in the improvement and development of social welfare activities, in particular. As stated in the CSWB report, the functions of this Board are-

- To conduct a survey on the needs and requirements of social welfare organisation
- To evaluate the programmes and projects of the aided agencies
- To co-ordinate the assistance extended to social welfare activities by various ministries in the central and state government.
- To promote the setting up of social welfare organizations on a voluntary basis in places where no such organisations exist.
- To render financial aid when necessary to deserving organisations or institutions on terms to be prescribed by the Board.

After the establishment of CSWB, a year later the State Boards were also established by August 1954. In 1964 with creation of the Department of Social Security the CSWB came under this department. The schemes and programmes undertaken by the Board includes general grants - in aid to voluntary organisations, welfare extension programmes for women and children, community development programmes, welfare extension programmes for women and children in urban slum areas, assistance to voluntary organisations for running working women's hostel, holiday camps for children, organising balawadis, integrated pre-school project, welfare extension projects in border areas, mahila mandal programmes, training of rural women in public co operation, supplementary nutrition programmes among others.

13.4.2.3 International Agencies of Child Welfare

Three main international agencies which deal with child welfare are the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the International Union for Child Welfare. The WHO and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund have made significant contribution in the sphere of maternal and child health and general feeding programmes in the country through the Government of India and State Governments. In the first plan period i.e., 1952-57, both these organisations assisted maternity and child health projects in various states. Facilities such as consultation, doctors, nurses were provided by the WHO and supplies, equipments, transportation facility of MCH (Materal and Child Healthcare) centres and state MCH Bureaus were provided by UNICEF. The International Union for Child Welfare circulate information on child welfare activities and holds conferences to focus the attention on this problem. As such, it can be stated that notable contribution has been made by these agencies in terms of child welfare in India.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

10. Define Social Welfare administration.
11. How does John C Kidneigh define Social Welfare Administration?
12. What did the Planning Commission decide to do?
13. The Department of Social Welfare was setup in ____.
14. What is the task of Department of Social Welfare?
15. The Central Social Welfare Board was set up by the Government of India on _____.
16. What does the Central Social Welfare Board deals with ?
17. What are the schemes and programmes undertaken by the Central Social Welfare Board?
18. Name three main international agencies which deal with child welfare ?



13.6 LET US SUM UP

- Social welfare in India is mostly dominated by values of humanitarianism, spirituality and individuality.
- India has a number of international agencies which function actively and provide social welfare assistance.
- Voluntary organisations play an important part in terms of providing social service in India.
- Some of the important organisations that played significant role in welfare activities initially were Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj, Prarthana Samaj.
- A major area of work by non governmental organisations had been in the care and rehabilitation of orphans and destitute people.
- In 1966, the Central Institute of Research and Training in Public Corporation was set up to conduct research on problems related to Voluntary Sector and train personnel's around the country.
- In 1953, Central Social Welfare Advisory Board was set up to co-ordinate and guide the non governmental efforts. The Board provided technical assistance to VA's and NGOs.
- Before India came under British rule, welfare activities such as care of the handicapped, aged, destitute, children were the responsibilities of joint family, caste and religious institutions.
- The government adopted a policy of least intervention in social reform and assumed minimum responsibility for social welfare.
- After India attained independence, the government faced the problem of refugees who came in large numbers due to the partition of the country.
- Relief and later rehabilitation measures on a large scale needed to be organised for these refugees.
- The year 1950 marked a new phase in the role of state in social welfare with the establishment of planning commission.

- Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) were introduced which emphasised on the achievement of social, economic and political justice.
- In conformity to our constitution, many welfare programmes have been included in five year plans.
- Social welfare services became organised with the setting up of Department of Social Welfare at the centre and the creation of an independent Ministry for Social Welfare.
- Social Welfare today is an organised and planned activity where state and government play an important role.
- The planning, organisation and implementation of welfare activities can be termed as social welfare administration.
- State entry into the field of social welfare is marked by the establishment of Social Welfare Department and Social Welfare Advisory Board.
- The Department of Social Welfare was setup in 1964.
- The task of Department of Social Welfare is to put up or prepare various welfare schemes and programmes for the under privileged sections in the society.
- CSWB was set up by the Government of India on 12 August 1953 to strengthen and assist the activities of voluntary organisations.
- CSWB deals with the welfare of women, children and the handicapped.
- The functions of CSWB were to assist in the improvement and development of social welfare activities, in particular
- After the establishment of CSWB, a year later State Boards were also established by August 1954.
- The WHO and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund have done significant contribution in the sphere of maternal and child health and general feeding programmes in India.
- The International Union for Child Welfare circulate information on child welfare activities and holds conferences to focus the attention on this problem.



13.7 FURTHER READING

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13.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No. 1. humanitarianism, spirituality and individuality

Ans to Q No. 2. security

Ans to Q No. 3. International Social Welfare Agencies can be categorised into -

- Private International Organisations
- Government Agencies of International Character
- Private International Organisations having autonomous organisation in each country
- National Government Agencies extending their work to other countries
- National Private Agencies extending their social service to other countries

Ans to Q No. 4. Some international agencies which provide Social Welfare are Red Cross, YMCA and YWCA, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, ILO,

FAO, International Conference of Social Work, International Union for Child Welfare, The Ford Foundation,

Ans to Q No. 5. Some early Vas which played important role in providing social welfare are are Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, Theosophical Society, Rama Krishna Mission.

Ans to Q No. 6. Balkanji Bari, Guild of Service, Children's Aid Society, and ICCW were few organisations involved in notable child welfare activities. Age-India and Help Age India are the voluntary organisations engaged in the welfare programmes for the aged.

Ans to Q No. 7. In 1953, Central Social Welfare Advisory Board was set up to co-ordinate and guide the non governmental efforts.

Ans to Q No. 8. Article 38 of DPSP provides to secure and protect a social order which stands for the welfare of the people.

Ans to Q No. 9. The field of welfare services became more organised with the establishment of a Department of Social Welfare at the centre and the creation of an independent Ministry for Social Welfare.

Ans to Q No. 10. The planning, organisation and implementation of welfare activities can be termed as social welfare administration .

Ans to Q No. 11. John C Kidneigh defines social welfare administration as "Social Welfare Administration is the process of transferring the social policy into services and the use of experience in evaluating and modifying policy".

Ans to Q No. 12. The Planning Commission which was set up in March 1950 initiated to prepare a plan for the effective utilisation of country's resources formulates the programmes of social welfare in the country.

Ans to Q No. 13. The Department of Social Welfare was setup in 1964.

Ans to Q No. 14. The task of Department of Social Welfare is to put up or prepare various welfare schemes and programmes for the under privileged sections in the society. Programmes are devised in each state in accordance to the kind of social welfare needed.

Ans to Q No. 15. The Central Social Welfare Board was set up by the Government of India on 12 August 1953.

Ans to Q No. 16. The Central Social Welfare Board deals with the welfare of women, children and the handicapped. The functions of this board were to assist in the improvement and development of social welfare activities, in particular.

Ans to Q No. 17. The schemes and programmes undertaken by the Central Social Welfare Board includes general grants - in aid to voluntary organisations, welfare extension programmes for women and children, community development programmes, welfare extension programmes for women and children in urban slum areas, assistance to voluntary organisations for running working women's hostel, holiday camps for children, organising balawadis, integrated pre-school project, welfare extension projects in border areas, mahila mandal programmes, training of rural women in public co operation, supplementary nutrition programmes among others.

Ans to Q No. 18. Three main international agencies which deal with child welfare are the WHO, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the International Union for Child Welfare.



13.9 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

A) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words

Q.1. Describe the role of NGOs in providing Social Welfare?

Q.2. Describe the role of Government organisations in providing Social Welfare?

Q.3. Write a note on Social Welfare Department and Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)?

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