

SOCIAL WORK AND OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social Institutions

Topic#1

What is a Social Science?

- **Social science**, any discipline or branch of science that deals with human behaviour in its social and cultural aspects.
- Social Science, broadly speaking, provides an understanding of how the world works using social and behavioural explanations.

Social Work

- Social work has been called a helping profession, a problem solving profession or an enabling profession.
- The social work profession , promotes social change, problem-solving in human relationships, and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance wellbeing.

SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Social work in the early period of growth depended to a large extent on knowledge derived from other disciplines like;
- psychology
- Sociology
- economics
- political science

Sociology and Social Work

- Latin word – socius means “companion” or “associate” Logos –a Greek word for “study”.
- Sociology is the study of association, group, society and social interaction.
- It is concerned with the study of human social life.

Sociology and Social Work

- Sociology and social work are two related fields and both deal with the relationships of human beings to their social environments.
- Both fields are concerned with social problems, social structure and how individuals respond to and live within cultural and structural constraints.

Sociology and Social Work

- In Sociology the approach to society is theoretical and theory building is its major concern. Social work on the other hand has to be practical and deal with problems.
- Delinquency, inequality, deviation and social exclusion as well as childhood, family and care are other examples of themes addressed by both disciplines.

Sociology and Social Work

- The sociologist is particularly concerned about the how, when, and why people behave as they do in association with others.
- The social worker is concerned about helping these same people to solve the problems they have and to improve social functioning.

What is Psychology?

- Psychology is concerned with behaviour and mental processes and how they are affected by an organism's physical state, mental state, and external environment.
- Psychology is the systematic study of behaviour: how we learn, think and interact with others, what motivates our actions, and the role that personality and individual difference play in behaviour.

Psychology and Social Work

- Social Case work is primarily concerned with the psycho- social problems of the individuals.
- Psychology helps social workers in understanding the psychological aspects of the problems especially while providing support services to clients with emotional, mental and/or behavioral issues.

Psychology and Social Work

- Theoretical perspectives from psychology have been added to the field of social work which enable a social worker both to understand and to practice.
- Social Workers Counsel clients in individual or group sessions to assist them in dealing with substance abuse, mental or physical illness, poverty, unemployment or physical abuse.

What is Economics?

- Economics is the study of how individuals and societies choose to use the scarce resources that nature and previous generations have provided.
- Scarcity
 - All economic questions arise because we are unable to satisfy all our wants.
 - Our inability to satisfy all our wants is called **scarcity**.
- Scarcity – a basic human dilemma
 - Limited resources vs. unlimited wants

What is Economics?

- Definitions of Economics
 - Mankiw's definition
 - ...is the study of how society manages its scarce resources
 - Hedrick's definition
 - ...is how society chooses to allocate its scarce resources among competing demands to improve human welfare

What is Economics?

- The state of our physical environment, the level of material well-being, and the nature and number of jobs are all products of the economic system.
- Economic Issues
 - Unemployment
 - Inflation
 - Taxation
 - Poverty
 - Health Care
 - Education

Economics and Social Work

- Both are concerned with the well being of individuals in the society.
- Economics provide the solution to our economic problems.
- Social work also tends to study;
 - how man satisfies his wants?
 - what problems he faces?
 - what resources he possesses to solve them?

What is Law/ Jurisprudence?

- Jurisprudence is a combination of two words 'juris' which means 'law' and 'prudence' which means 'knowledge' or 'skill'.
- It is the study, knowledge, skill and theory of law.
- Law are rules of human conduct by political authority.

Social Work and Law

- Jurisprudence is a social science as it is the study of law and its enactment and the law is for human being and society.
- Social workers often require an understanding of the law in a variety of emerging areas.
- Family issues(divorce, custody of children etc)
- Child Welfare(child labour)
- Crime and Punishment(Rehabilitation, Juvenile justice, Probation)