

UNIVERSITY OF PESHAWAR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
MPhil SCHOLARS IN SOCIAL WORK – SPRING SEMESTER 2020
SW 701- CONTEMPERORY SOCIAL WORK

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LECTURE # 6

DIFFERENT PRESPECTIVES AND CONCEPTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE

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In this lesson, the focus is on different Perspectives of Social Welfare

THE IDEA OF WELFARE REFERS TO “WELBEING” OR WHAT IS “GOOD” FOR PEOPLE.

- Welfare provision serves mainly the physical and material interests of recipients.
- Interests are linked both with people's needs, which are socially defined, and with what people want.
- Social welfare is not simply the sum of individual welfares, and one concept cannot be derived from the other.
- Some interests may be held in common, equally however, there may be conflicts between interests, and some may bear costs for the benefit of others.

RESIDUAL CONCEPT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

- The residual concept of social welfare is the oldest form of social welfare which was originated in the western countries.
- The term ‘residual’ means **left over** or **marginalized** or **excluded**.
- If we look at it from the **Social Welfare Perspective** it refers to the welfare services for the excluded or marginalized groups, who due to certain external factors are unable to manage their day-to-day living on their own capacity and require outside support for doing so.
- This includes the people who undergo bad risks, unemployed, old people, orphan children, chronically sick, economically dependent people and those with disabilities

This concept of social welfare holds the view that;

- Social Welfare comes to play only when the normal structure of the social environment of the individual is broken down.
- People approach for social welfare services when all their resources and livelihood alternatives have been exhausted.
- Under this concept of social welfare the state does not have welfare obligation towards its citizens as moral right and the position of the state here can be characterized as **‘the lender of last resort’**.

- The welfare programs exist to meet the emergency needs of individuals, groups and the communities, when they are incapable of providing themselves the basic amenities of their lives.
- In this case the society intervenes through public or voluntary means to assure certain minimum level of personal and social well being and effective social functioning.
- The welfare services under this concept are provided on the basis of ‘**means test**’ to some selected individuals who meet the required criteria established for the prospective beneficiaries.
- It should be noted that in the society where social goods are distributed on the principle of selectivity, the commitment of the state on welfare is considerably low.
- This concept was embraced by most of the English speaking countries and British colonies of the world.
- Historically, Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601 was the foundation of the residual concept of social welfare. Now, this form of social welfare is widely prevalent in the developed countries like USA, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand

INSTITUTIONAL CONCEPT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

- The institutional concept of social welfare is widely accepted form of social welfare especially in the developing countries having strong reference to the recent times.
- It started gaining optimum importance due to the emergence of the concept of welfare state and strong lobby of democrats in the latter half of the 19th century.
- This concept stands on the view that, the modern institutional society requires a variety of services as ‘**first line support**’ to enable the individuals groups and communities to cope successfully with the changing economic and social environment and to assure the development and stability of social institutions.
- In this system need is considered as a normal part of social life and that welfare provision is a normal and primary function of the modern industrial society.
- Welfare services are provided for the population as a whole such as public services like, roads, schools, public health and so on. In this system social welfare is not just for the poor and needy, but it is for all the citizens.

- Individuals in such a society will experience that they have access to large number of social rights which are formulated as legal rights.
- In a broader sense, in an institutional welfare involves stronger commitments on behalf of the state

NOTE:

SCHOLARS ARE ADVISED TO WRITE ONE PAGE REFERRING TO WHAT THEY HAVE READ IN THE LECTURE