

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

**TUTOR: PROF.DR. SARAH SAFDAR**

**LECTURE # 3**  
**CONTEMPERORY FIELDS OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2020**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Social work is a systematic way of helping individuals and groups towards better adaptation to society.

The social worker will work together with clients to develop their inner resources and he will mobilize, if necessary, outside facilities for assistance to bring about changes in the environment.

Thus, social work tries to contribute towards greater harmony in society. As in other professions social work is based on specialized knowledge, certain principles and skills."

The social work profession promotes social change, problem-solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being.

Utilizing theories of human behaviour and social systems, social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environments.

Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work.

Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people.

Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work.

### **Meaning of Social Work to a Lay Person**

- A person who performs some good deeds for the people is doing social work.
- who carries on community activities voluntarily without any
- Having their own way of explaining social work in the light of his experience and knowledge needy people in the community.

### **Meaning of Social Work to a Semi-professional**

- This interpretation of social work is given by those who are not trained social workers but work in some welfare agency.
- They believe that they have the right to be called as social worker just because they are engaged in welfare activities.
- In their belief, because a person employed in the welfare agency, and carries on welfare activities, he/she is a social worker and their activities are social work practices.

### **Scientific meaning of Social Work**

- The function of social work is “to give assistance to individuals in regard to the difficulties they encounter in their use of an organized group services or their own performance as member of an organized group.”

=== Organized group here means institutions like:the family, the neighborhood, the school, the religious institutions, Health Institutions including hospitals and the health clinics.

### **Generally accepted meaning of Social Work**

- Social work is a profession primarily concerned with the remedy to psycho-social problems and deficiencies which exists in the relationship between the individual and his/ her social environment.
- These are the people in distress, destitution and deprivation
- Social work aims at making a person self-dependent and self-reliant.
- It attempts to explore the casual factors behind the problem and tries to solve them scientifically.

- Therefore, it is visualized that social work is scientific process for helping to the needy suffering from material deficiencies, physical disabilities, mental disorders, emotional disturbances and so on by using knowledge in human relationship and methods and skills in dealing with them.
- Speaking in a nut shell, social work intended to assist individuals, families, social groups and communities in sorting out their personal and social problems and permanently solving those problems through a systematic process.

**Friedlander (1951)** defined, “Social work is a professional service, based on scientific knowledge and skill in human relations, which assists individuals, alone or in groups, to obtain social and personal satisfaction and independence”.

**EXPLANATION:**

- social work is a profession like other professions,
- through which a trained social worker with scientific knowledge and outlook in handling human relations
- helps individuals and groups to have social and personal satisfaction.

**Stroup (1960)** defined social work as “an art of bringing various resources bear on individual, group and community needs by the application of a scientific method of helping the people to help themselves”.

**EXPLANATION:**

- Social Work is a helping activity
- Community resources are used to help the individuals
- It makes the people independent

**Social Work encompasses almost all the issues of social conditions such as:**

1. Social change
2. Social relationship

3. Social problems
4. Human salvation
5. Resources in society
6. Social environment
7. Human rights and
8. Social justice

**From the deeper analysis of Social Work Profession, it is submitted that:**

- i) Social work is a professional practice involves professional knowledge, skills, tools and techniques for dealing with human behaviour
- ii) It mainly emphasizes on the analysis and synthesis of human behaviour for establishing a growth-producing relationship
- iii) It is concerned with individual and social problems which are solved by applying different methods and techniques.
- iv) As a practice giving much emphasis on social adjustment.
- v) Its main objective is to help the individuals to become self-dependent.
- vi) It aims at permanent solution of problems and prevention of their occurring through proactive measures.
- vii) It relates the available resources with the needs of individuals, groups and community at large.
- viii) It also integrates and coordinates the means and resources of social development.
- ix) It believes in democratic values.
- x) It is based on humanitarian philosophy

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **General objectives of Social Work:**

- i) To change in painful situation of individuals
- ii) To develop the constructive forces both within and around the individual
- iii) To enhance the democratic and humanistic behaviour of the individual
- iv) To provide physical or material support
- v) To help in social adjustment
- vi) To help in solving the psychological problems
- vii) To make adequate opportunities for the individuals in problems for raising their standard of living

### **Generic objectives of social work:**

- i) To solve psycho-social problems
- ii) To fulfill humanitarian needs like love, affection, care, etc.
- iii) To solve adjustment problems
- iv) To create self-sufficiency
- v) To make and strengthen harmonious social relations
- vi) To make provision of corrective and recreational services
- vii) To develop democratic values among the people
- viii) To provide opportunities for development and social progress
- ix) To change the environment in favour of individual's growth and development
- x) To bring change in the defective social system for social development and
- xi) To provide socio-legal aid to the needy who cannot afford to meet them.

---

## **POINTS TO PONDER**

If we critically synthesize all the objectives given above, we can compress them just into two statements such as:

1. Enabling the individual and his impaired being so as to make him fit to live a self-sufficient and satisfied life and

2. Modifying his/her social environment in his/her for so that it becomes conducive for him/her to live happy and adequate life.

**NOTE:**

**SCHOLARS ARE ADVISED TO WRITE ONE PAGE REFERRING TO THESE POINTS ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THEY HAVE READ IN THE LECTURE.**