

UNIVERSITY OF PESHAWAR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
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SW 701- CONTEMPERORY SOCIAL WORK

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LECTURE # 4

**DEFINITION OF SOCIAL WELFARE: FUNCTIONAL AND
DESCRIPTIVE**

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1. In this lesson, we will focus on the definition and explanation of Social Welfare
 2. When you get to the end of the lesson, you can test your knowledge with one page write up.
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SOCIAL WELFARE:

Meaning and concept:

The term 'social welfare' denotes the system of such services which intend to cater to the special needs of persons, groups and communities.

It implies that, social welfare services are meant to benefit the weaker, dependent or under privileged sections of the population.

Such services basically cover the needy members of the society irrespective of gender, religion, caste and creed. These members are categorized as:

- The orphans
- The widows and destitute
- The mentally deranged persons
- The blind
- The deaf
- the crippled and
- other economically underprivileged members of the society.

The services under Social Welfare aim at enabling the marginalized people to receive the general social services for social, economic and psychological development of the society.

Shortly speaking, social welfare refers to the collective responsibility to meet the needs of all the people in general and the needy and marginalized in particular

Definition of Social Welfare:

According to Encyclopedia Britannica: Social Welfare has been defined as “a system of laws and institutions through which a government attempts to protect and promote the social and economic welfare of its citizens usually based on various forms of social insurance against unemployment, accident, illness and old age”.

Friedlander defines Social welfare saying that “ It is an organized form of social services and institutions, designed to aid individuals and groups to attain satisfying standards of life and health, and personal and social relationships that permits them to develop their full capacities and to promote their wellbeing in harmony with the needs of their families and the community”.

A document prepared by the United Nations on social welfare planning in the context of National Development plans defined social welfare as ‘a body of organized activities which are basically meant to enable individuals, groups and communities to improve their own situations, adjust to changing conditions and participate in the tasks of development’.

Sarah Safdaris of the view that “Social welfare has been especially identified with the improvement of conditions of life of human beings in general and the physically, mentally, emotionally, economically or socially handicapped and other disadvantaged individuals or groups in particular”.

DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE CONCEPT IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan came into existence on 14th August 1947 and with its inception it faced a lot of problems in terms of lack of resources, lack of manpower and a way to move towards development.

In 1951 the Government of Pakistan requested United Nations to study the prevailing conditions and formulate a Social Welfare program benefiting the country.

In 1952 first group of UN Social Welfare Consultants arrived in Karachi and advised the Government of Pakistan to give priority to Social Work Education as a training program in Pakistan.

On the recommendation of UN Advisors the Government of Pakistan drew up a plan for initiating an organized Social Welfare Program in the country in 1953.

In the initial stage the Government of Pakistan confined to impart Social Work training and encouraging people for Community Development Projects.

The Government set up a Planning Board in 1953 to prepare the Economic Development Program. Welfare Section was created in the Planning Board named as National Planning Commission.

The Social Welfare Section in National Planning Commission had the following responsibilities:

1. Investigate social problems and needs arising out of Social Change
2. Review Social Policies and Legislation in various fields of Social Welfare
3. Preparation of Social Welfare Programs got five Year Plans

According to the document of five year plan of Pakistan the objectives of social welfare can be stated under the following lines

- To ensure adequate living standard for all
- To assure social justice to all
- To provide opportunities for cultural development through individual group self-expression.
- To readjust human relations leading to social harmony.

PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATES OF SOCIAL WELFARE

In July 1970, the Directorate General of Social Welfare was divided in Four Provinces of Pakistan. One Directorate and one Council was established in each province namely, Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and NWFP (present KPK province)

The Provincial Directorates were assigned the following responsibilities:

1. To establish and supervise community development projects (both Urban and Rural), Medical and School Social Work Education Units
2. To set up Socio- economic centers, Day care centers and Model Orphanages
3. Registration, Supervision, Counseling and Guidance to the Volunteer Social Welfare Organizations
4. To undertake Research and Evaluative Studies in the field of Social Services
5. To recommend and draft Social Legislation
6. Co-ordination of all Programs of Social Welfare in the Province

General objectives of social welfare:

- Expansion of social services and their improvement
- To provide welfare services and develop the weaker and more vulnerable sections of the population
- To develop supplementary welfare services
- To bring about social reform
- To provide social security and social assistance
- To bring about social change including reducing disparities of income and wealth
- To prevent the concentration economic power and take step to equalize opportunities within the communities.
- To help individuals to attain satisfying standards of life, health and equal opportunities with the fellow citizens and self-respect.

- To secure for each individual the basic economic requirement and decent living condition
- To strengthen individual capacities to cope up with the real life situation.
- To create the basic condition that will enable all the members of the community to realize their potential capacity, growth and self-fulfillment.