

The Role of Social Worker in Community Development

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Abstract: *Man is social animal. Society is made by social relations. He born in the society and die in the society. He lives in the society. He can't live without society; many research studies conducted by social scientists have proven that also. Man is dependent on others for his wants and needs, it means we depend on society but society is not depending on us. While living in the society we need to develop some kind of relations called social relations with the peers and members of community. While society has broad concept, community is a part of the society. Being a member of community everyone tries to fulfill their wants and needs by other members and they to contribute something to communal harmony and development of the community. When issues arises in social relationships conflicts starts to arise at the same time. Though issues and conflicts are common for all community, progress and development is not possible without eradicating the problems. Here the role and interventions of social work/ social workers comes to play.*

Keywords: Community Development, Roles of Social Worker, Social Animal

Introduction

Community is not only made up of people, but it includes of their social relationships, unity, co-ordination, power, mutual help and dependency. Problems and conflicts are quite common for every community. But their impacts on lives of the people are very serious. If we want to achieve sustainability and development of the community, should provide a wide range of essential services based on need from the social workers, Ngo's or Government organizations, but those services should ensure that people improve their lives by solving their problems. Community based services are i.e. economic, health, educational, employment and training infrastructure (food, water, sanitation, toilets, transportation, electricity, housing etc). While, all of this is the responsibility of the government, social work services are used to be an excellent tool Viz. (GO's, NGO's, CBO's, and Charity organizations). Social work services got prime focus in the community i.e. Social, economical, health, Counseling, housing, training and employment. They often help people to meet their needs, aims and change their paths of life. Here, we also talk about consolidation and mobilization of available recourses in the community and use them appropriately in solving the problems of community. Thus, the main objectives of this study are developing the understanding of underlying concepts, and analyzing the roles of social work/social workers in the field of community development.

Objectives

1. Developing an understanding of the concepts involved
2. Analyzing the role of social worker in community development.

Literature Review

According to Kenny (2011) community development is a method for empowering communities to take collective control and responsibility for their own development. According to united nationals community development is a process where community members come to gather to take collective action and generate solution to common problems. According to Lotz (1977) community development is collectively confronted and act on their common values and problems. According to international association for community development (IACD in 2016) community development is both a practice based profession and academic discipline. Thus, community development is difficult to define because it is multi dimensional process.

According to my perspective, community development is conscious effort taken by people for social change; it has values, ethics and principles according to community. The community development worker in community, work with values, ethics, equality, and democratic principles they work for social justice and social development. Community development programmes helps to achieve the goal of employment,

empowerment, health, education, resilience of the community. Community development programme was started in India in the year 1952. Community development

Problem Statement

"Problems are unmet needs" states H.H Perlman (1957 Chicago). Every person in the community tries to fulfill their wants and needs, but when they fail, problems starts appearing. Problems faced by community people are, poverty, unemployment, corruption, Illiteracy, drug and de addiction, poor sanitation and housing. Without getting solutions to these problems, development of community is not possible. Hence, finding solutions to these problems is accountability of social work/workers.

Concept of Community and Community Development

Community in a common parlance, we call a community a group of people living together in a particular territory, with the feeling that we are all one.

D) Origin of the word community: The word "community" is derived from the old French word 'comunete' and it is derived from Latin word 'communitas' which gives same meaning in Latin language. According to Cambridge dictionary: "The people living in one or particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interest, social group or nationality".

Community Development

Community Development (CD) is a young and professional discipline. It is a process where all the developmental activities taking place. The concept of community development is not only solving the problems of community people, but it includes making people lives better and enhancing with quality of life. The United Nations defines community development as "a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems." Sander defines "Community Development as "It is an organized effort to improve the condition of community life."

In simple words, it is a process in which people come to organize and participate in developmental activities/programmes cordially. They solve their problems and develop themselves.

Community Organization

Community Organization is one of the methods of social work, and as emerging Profession. It is accepted by many national and international based community organizations, and professional social workers those who involved themselves in the community work. Being a primary method of social work, community organization is deals with the problems of community, that may be rural, tribal or urban, i.e. environmental and societal and political problems poverty, unemployment, corruption, ill literacy, drug and de addiction, housing, slums poor sanitation etc.

Who is Social Worker?

The social worker is the one, who complete his education and training in social work i.e. Diploma in social work, BSW, MSW. They work in different organizations (Government, Non government) to help and meet the needs of individual, groups and community at large. They assist Individuals, families, groups, communities to overcome their psycho-social, economical, Familial matters/ issues. They help them to adjust with their environment and live happier life. Social workers always concerned with problems of masses.

What is Research?

Research is an application of scientific method that sought out solutions for problems of society. Here researcher can work in a comprehensive manner. The word itself states that Re+ (Search back) Search (investigate), it means search back or discover something you don't know. It aims at contribute or adding something to already existing knowledge.

Methodology

Methodology has got its own importance in research; it indicates what methods choose for carrying research work. Here, the researcher has adopted descriptive research. And they have tried to explore the

role/Functions of Social worker in the development sector. Researcher prepared this paper with the help of secondary sources i.e. books, journals, reports, and social medias, discussion with experts, self observations etc.

Role of Social Worker in Community Development

Actually, Community development is very difficult task to achieve. Social worker always being a part of community, he plays very crucial roles. They influence on lives of the people by making favorable policy and programmes. They work as bridge between government and people. Some develop mentalists argues that social work is a profession and activity to study, assess, formulate, conduct, implement need-based favorable policy, plans and programmes. They always concerned with eradicating of community problems. They act as change agent. They bring new light into the lives of poor, backward, oppressed, suppressed, vulnerable group of people.

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Some common roles played by social workers in community are:

- 1) Counselor
- 2) Educator
- 3) Community organizer
- 4) Programme manager
- 5) Broker
- 6) Facilitator
- 7) Community change agent
- 8) Mediator
- 9) Advocate
- 10) Case worker
- 11) Group worker
- 12) Researcher
- 13) Crisis intervention
- 14) Public policy making
- 15) Co coordinator
- 16) Enabler
- 17) Recourse mobilizer
- 18) Social scientist/ expert
- 19) Social activist
- 20) Administrator
- 21) Developmentalist
- 22) Peace maker and public relations

(It may include some emerging roles in disaster situations)

Social workers work with individual, families and Groups in the community. They organize people and facilitate in well manner. They have to understand power dynamics, social relationships in the community .They work cordially with the Federal, Government Departments and various Ngo's. They find themselves as Leader and social engineer. They involve themselves in Study and analyze determine the social issues that community confront, finding and mobilizing recourses and using them timely to solve various social issues.

Findings and Solutions

Through this study of role of social worker in community development, researcher comes to find out the following facts and figures:

- 1) Community development is one of the Core settings to practice Social work profession
- 2) Community development is a process; here participation of people is very important.
- 3) Although, it is very difficult to achieve community development task, social worker can achieve it by co-operation and co-ordination with the community people and organization.
- 4) Appropriate policies, plans, and programmes can impact positively on the lives of the people, especially disadvantaged groups of society.
- 5) Social worker promotes empowerment, decision making and positive participation of the people
- 6) Social worker can use tolerance as tool in order to respond some aggressive changes occurred in the community.

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Conclusion

Community development is a field/area of professional social work. It is core setting to practice Social Work profession, where social workers can practice macro method. Although, one of our primary method and secondary methods are widely used i.e. community organization and social action, we can use social work administration and research wherever needed.

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Author's Bio-Note

Mr. I.A. Ronad is Head and Lecturer in the department of social work, Shri Sangameswara Arts and Commerce College Chadchan. He completed his bachelor and Masters Degree in Social work from the Karnataka University. He has a decade of experience in teaching in social work, research and counseling. His view towards social work profession is remarkable. A number of research articles and book chapters have been published in reputed Journals (online and offline) and books with ISSN/ ISBN.