



### Short Review Paper

## The Role of Social Worker in Community Development

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### Abstract

Every members of the community desire to stay safe, healthy and wealthy in all manners. To enjoy all amenities of the society one who need to have a vibrant economic status as well as excellent public services. Social services and social work have important role in helping the people to improve the quality of life by creating awareness and sustain the community by creating employment opportunities on their own effort. Present paper is an essential contribution to understand the role of social worker in community development (CD). Effective social work services promote independence and resilience, enabling some of our most vulnerable sections of the community. Present effort is to know the role of social worker in the process of community development.

**Keywords:** Society, Social work, Resilience, Vulnerable, Community development.

### Introduction

Every individual in a society aspire to live a healthy, tolerant, safe, inclusive and fair life. Social work services have an essential contribution to make in achieving that goal. Social work education have many challenges, but with the effort of educators, field practitioners, and social work trainees it is turning towards to meet local needs and adopt local techniques to resolve issues of an individual, the group and the community by adopting Community development skills. Community development is core component of social work and it is concentrate on increase the literacy rate, create and generate employment opportunity, poverty eradication, and eradication of acute hungriness, gender equality and welfare of the vulnerable sections of the society by adopting methods of social work. Social workers have vital role in understand our heritage of social work as well as to understand and inculcate the professional skills of western practice of social work profession. Social workers with the knowledge of both literature and practice can immensely contribute for community development.

**Objectives of the Study:** i. To develop an understanding of community development as a core component of social work practice. ii. To examine the Roles of social worker in community Development.

### Conceptual Framework

**Social Work:** Social work is an organized profession to extend the helping hands to an individual, group and community, for their betterment as well as sustaining them to help themselves by adopting varies professional strategies. Disadvantaged sections of the society like: weaker sections, down-trodden, orphans' labors etc. are considered to be needy of the

profession, Social worker can provide psychological counseling, guidance and assistance in the form of helping the people to help themselves.

**Social Worker:** A social worker is a professional who works with the people to help themselves, so that people can manage their daily lives with respect and dignity.

**Community Development:** "Community Development is a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and fullest possible reliance upon the community's initiative."<sup>1</sup>

### Methodology

Explorative research methodology has been used to explore the role of a social work community development in changing the life style scenario on India society. The paper is designed with secondary source, academic articles, online journals, expert's expressions and self observations to comprehend and analyse the new wave of social/ public service buffeting the life style of the weaker sections, down-trodden, orphans etc. in India.

### Social Work - As a Profession and Community Development

The social work profession is broader than most disciplines with regard to the range and types of problems addressed with the settings in which the work takes place, the levels of practice, interventions used, and populations served. Social workers may be engaged in a variety of occupations ranging from hospitals, schools, clinics, police departments, public agencies, court systems to private practices or businesses. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior,

of social, economic and cultural institutions, and of the interaction of all these factors. The main tasks of professional social workers can include a variety of services such as case management (linking clients with agencies and programs that will meet their psychosocial needs), counseling (psychotherapy), human services management, social welfare policy analysis, policy and practice development, community organising, international, social and community development, advocacy, teaching (in schools of social work), and social research.

Social development is holistic approach of development whereas, community development restrict to geographical area like Tribal, Rural and Urban community. It concentrates on various sections of the society and target groups like Marginalized Sections, Religious groups and issue based activities. Community development adopts various techniques social work to work with individuals groups and community. Community organisation is the one of the important methods of social work it helps consistently in the process of understanding community needs and find the resources for fulfill the needs of community. Prime purpose of social work towards community is to empower various sections of the society in all means.

### **Role of Social Worker in Community Development**

Social work is a vibrant profession; longitude and latitude of the profession are largely widened. Direct roles of social worker begin with the practicing primary methods of social work. Primary methods are the participatory method with the individual, group and community. Secondary methods are both participatory and non-participatory to be used for the benefit of society at large. Therefore role of social worker is widened for the betterment of individual, group and community<sup>2</sup>. Social workers may play all of these roles in different contexts and at different times in their career; the roles are as follows:

**Caseworker:** who look after the issues of individual, it is to help every problematic person in a holistic way. Case work is about to addresses the personal issues of the every individual, who seek help from case worker and solve them in a professional manner.

**Group Worker:** he looks after the treatment and fulfilling the psychosocial needs of the problematic groups of the community. Constitutes Teams, Committees, and invite delegates to fulfill the tasks of psychosocial needs of group members. He tries to develop leadership quality; increase awareness levels of group members on varies issues, and educate them for sustainable development.

**Community Organizer:** major role of social worker in community development begins with the organising community on varies social issues. Initially it is all about (Murry G. Ross 1955) bring out the match between societal needs or objectives and resources available to deal with those needs. Doing so, it

extends and develops cooperative and collaborative attitudes and practices in the community<sup>3</sup>. Further community organizer must concentrate on developing skills on interesting profession of the members and create the political awareness among them, thereby community members will be more strengthen and they leads in to individual and community development.

**Need Analyzer:** in order to fulfill the societal needs, scientific need analysis must be undertake, by which needs to be priorities. Therefore social workers analyses the needs of the community with the help of community members and priorities them. Various client groups, NGO s govt officials of the community take active part in the process of need analysis and ideas of member to be incorporate with the proposals of needs of the community.

**Project manager:** Project or Programme sanctioned for community benefit is always headed by the professional social workers. Social worker have vital role in the need analysis, implement and manage the project, as they trained in preparing and administrate projects and they know the every pulse of the individual, group and community. Active participation with the various groups of the communities they can contribute extremely well for community development.

**Facilitator:** Social worker facilitate with the various benefits provided by the govt, NGOs, international agencies like WHO, UNICEF, WTO, UNO, etc to the poor, socially excluded, disadvantaged or disempowered individuals and groups and marginalized sections of the society.

**Middle manager:** who help the community members to take the services from government; especially he is middle manager in arranging social security programmes, general insurances and health insurances provided to various beneficiary of the society. He is the true middle manager between employer and employee in collective bargaining and in to get sanction with the various benefits from employer in the view of labor welfare.

**Counselor:** every individual of the society having unique character in nature, therefor individualizing the people and fulfilling their needs is the biggest task before social workers. Meaningful and scientific interaction between social worker and every individuals of the society is expected in the preview of counseling, which is the only solution to address the issues of community members also individuals whose behavior is problematic. Such effort helps to improve tolerance among all and it leads in to community development.

**Role in Grama Sabha:** Grama sabha is also another means of people participation and community development. (CUD 2014) 83.55% of the respondents are aware about rural development schemes such as; NREGP, GANGA KALYAN YOJANA, and ASHRAYA YOJANA etc, higher level of education, good economic background and interest of people appear to be the causes of their high level of awareness<sup>4</sup>. Therefor social worker must take active participation in Grama Sabha and aware

community members about facilities made for individuals and community. (Dhavaleshwar C U, B. C. C. 2012) An excellent aspect of panchayat raj institution is that it has made provision for reservation for women in panchayat it leads for another face of development<sup>5</sup>.

**Researcher:** social worker takes the scientific investigation of the social and individual issues. Every community (Tribal, Rural, Urban) have its own issues which are the major obstacles of the development, scientific as well as emotional investigation by the social worker may help every, individual groups community and forecasted community development may possible.

### Conclusion

Social work education and profession have greater responsibility in the process of community development. Hand by hand support of education and field practice can contribute for the welfare of the various sections of the society. Therefore there is need of well qualified, practice oriented and committed social workers, they can work for improve the socio- economic status, and quality of life for community members.

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