

## **TOPIC: What is the role of social worker in community development?"**

### **Introduction**

Every member in a society wish to live a healthy, wealthy, prosperous and fair life. For this purpose he has to have 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.

### **Definition of community:**

"A community is a social unit (a group of living things) with commonality such as norms, religion, values, customs or identity".

### **Elements of community:**

1. Group of peoples
2. Definite locality
3. Community sentiment
4. Likeness
5. Permanency
6. Neutrality
7. Size
8. Wider ends
9. A particular name

**Types of community:**

There are two types of community.

1. Geographic community
2. Community of interest

**Functions of community:**

Following are the main functions of community.

1. Production-Distribution-Consumption
2. Socialization
3. Social control
4. Social participation
5. Mutual supports

**Definition of 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”

**The role of a social worker in community development:**

The idea behind Community development is simple: residents take collective action to generate solutions to common problems. In working together to improve the quality of their lives, residents also address the socioeconomic barriers that often lead to poverty values, underperforming schools and so on.

As part of their profession social workers often generate community improvement programs and development projects that also allow for local citizens to contribute to their community's development plans. Some social workers create possibilities directly with individuals, others assess community needs on a larger scale.

**Definition of community development:**

(i) “Community development is an attempt to bring about a social and economic transformation of village life through the efforts of the people themselves”.

(Planning commission of India)

(ii) “Community development is the process of assisting ordinary people to improve their own communities by undertaking collective action”

(Twelve trees 1991)

**Principles of community development:**

1. Self-help and self-responsibility are required for successful development.
2. Participation in public decision making should be free and open to all citizens.
3. Trust is essential for effective working relationship.

4. Methods that produce accurate information about the community are vital to the process.
5. Understandings and general agreements are the basic for community change.
6. All individuals have the right to be heard in open discussion and the responsibility to respect opposing viewpoint.

**Values of community development:**

1. All peoples have basic dignity.
2. People have the right to help make decisions on issues that impact their well-being.
3. People have the right to strive to create the environment they want.
4. People have the right to reject an externally imposed environment.

**Elements of community development:**

There are four elements of community development.

1. Process
2. Method
3. Program
4. Movement

**Objectives of the Study:**

To develop an understanding of community development as a core component of social work practice.

.To examines 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 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.

## **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 analyses 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 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, 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 organizing, 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 organization 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. 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 organizing 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, 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 Program 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 programs, 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. 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.

**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.