



## Study of Philosophy of Social Work as a profession in India

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### Abstract

Individuals with psycho-social difficulties and inadequacies in their connection with their social environment are the primary focus of social work, which is a profession that is focused with the treatment of these problems and deficiencies. This phenomena has continuously was in culture in some form or another, but it was only in the later decades of the nineteenth century that it had a scientific foundation. In the past, individuals, families, communities, and religious groups have helped those in need because they thought that "charity was a way to get to heaven, and because they thought that "humanism, philanthropy, humanitarian feeling, democratic ideology, equality of all citizens," respect for other's rights, and respect for human dignity were important.

**Key Words:** Social, work, professional, Philosophy etc.

### Introduction

“Social work is a professional service, based on scientific knowledge and skills in human relations, which assists individuals alone or in groups, to obtain social and personal satisfaction and independence”. It's become more common in recent years to think about how today's society makes it hard to solve social problems and help people. This means that in “addition to the personal qualities of sympathy, understanding, and self-sacrifice” that have long been related with the job, social workers need to learn specialised knowledge and skills. According to the findings of the profession's study, it seems that the requisite knowledge and abilities may be obtained via organised training. In addition, it is believed that since the labour of assisting others is a crucial societal role, individuals who conduct this activity should be compensated for their efforts. Generally speaking, professions include medicine, law, and engineering, and social work falls into this group as well. It has demonstrated its relevance and holds all of the necessary features to be referred to be a professional field. However, in India, there is debate about whether social work should be classified as a profession. To have a more comprehensive knowledge of



the “social work” profession in India, it is essential to conduct a more in-depth investigation and debate.

### **Characteristics of a Profession**

Several distinguished authors, after conducting a thorough examination of the meaning and implications of the term "profession," made an attempt to define the traits of a profession in the following ways: Following are the attributes that, according to Miriam Van Waters, should be stressed in a professional setting:

- The acquisition of specialised abilities via training, and
- The performance of a role that is recognised by the general public.
- A sense of belonging resulting from shared training
- A feeling of “loyalty or humour” that manifests himself in an ethical enigma in the realm of shared relationships between customers, employees, and the general public.

### **Social workers in India have several characteristics:**

That distinguish them from other professionals. As a result of the qualities of a occupation, we can now evaluate the legitimacy of the assertion that social work is a legitimate career in the following ways:

- **A systematic and scientific body of knowledge:**

In this context, the first issue to be addressed is: "Do we have a body of knowledge and theory that qualifies us to claim the status of a profession?" The genuine response to the query could be affirmative in this case. “Social work” is founded on a “scientific body of knowledge” that allows professionals to see and comprehend a person, his or her issue, and the social milieu in which they or they are working in a unique manner. The areas of knowledge that are primarily included into the corpus of social work knowledge may be divided into the following categories:

- **A working understanding of human behaviour and the social context:**

Individuals with understanding of personality variables, “theories, social elements, psychiatric” features, human connections, “groups, social institutions, socializations”, and other components of society will be more equipped to cope with unwanted conditions in the workplace.



- **Expertise in the methodologies, tools, and procedures used in social work:**

Casework, “group work, community organising, social welfare administration, social action, and social research” are examples of tried-and-true scientific approaches that are included in this degree programme.

- **Fields of Social Work:**

It encompasses “knowledge of medical care, psychiatric services, child counselling, correctional services, family welfare, youth welfare, labour welfare, rural development, and other related fields...

- **Social Problem**

It comprises knowledge about crimes, delinquencies, alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling, beggary, prostitution, unemployment, castes, communalism, corruption, discrimination, poverty”, and other issues, as well as the elements that contribute to these issues and the remedies that are available.

**Knowledge about values and principles:**

“Social work” has evolved a set of well-defined principles that serve as a guide for its practitioners. “The social worker accepts the client” as he is and does not attempt to force anything on him or her. It believes in the inherent value, dignity, and integrity of each human. Its mission is to encourage the full development of human potential by assisting individuals in assisting themselves.

**Philosophical Foundations of Social Work**

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the name Philosophy comes “from the two Greek terms 'philo' which means love, and 'Sophia' which means wisdom.” The combination of the two phrases has the literal meaning of 'Love for knowledge.' As a result, the definition of philosophy is a deep affection for knowledge. When one's own life experiences have been finely tuned and reasoned, wisdom is the end result. “Philosophy is the science that studies” the most fundamental truths and “principles of human nature and behaviour” in order to better understand and guide our lives.

**Social work Philosophy**

As with “other professions, social work” originated and developed as a result of the need of individuals. In the beginning, social work was primarily concerned with the poor and



defenceless, but as times changed, it began to take on the characteristics of other services. In the “twenty-first century”, it is primarily concerned with the difficulties that arise when human institutions or human relationships either fail or are on the verge of failing, or even when they are not operating at their full potential because of a variety of factors. It has been discovered that the issues of human existence are not driven by a single element, but rather are the outcome of a number of variables that are tied to the survival and growth of human civilization, “which is the ultimate reality” in which we find ourselves. It is critical to understand the conceptual grounds that firmly support social work as a noble profession in this environment.

### Conclusion

A profession is typically considered to be a career that requires a higher educational level, such as a bachelor's degree, a diploma, or a certificate course, in order to perform its duties. It is distinguished by a highly specialised “body of knowledge” and abilities, a narrowly defined field of activity, a “well-defined code of ethics, and a certain degree” of organisation between the memberships of the occupation, among other characteristics. As a result, a profession may be described as an activity for which specialised “knowledge, techniques, skills, and training are necessary”, and in which the “members of the profession work” not just for their own personal happiness but also for the greater good of society as a whole. It carries with it some ethical duty on the part of the experts. All of the occupations are jobs in the sense that they offer a means of subsistence for those who engage in their practise. On the other hand, not all jobs are considered professions because they lack specific qualities of occupations and because they must pass through certain phases of growth before attaining the status of a occupation.

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