

SOCIAL WORK – DEFINITIONS & CONCEPT

Cheyney, Alice (1526)

“ Social Work includes all voluntary attempts to extend benefits in response to needs which are concerned with social relationship and which avail themselves of scientific knowledge and methods.”

H. Witmer (1942)

“ The prime function of social work is to give assistance to individuals in regard to the difficulties they encounter in their use of an organized groups service or in their performance as a member of an organized group.”

Fink (1942)

“ Social work is the provision of service designed to aid individuals, singly or in groups in coping with present or future social problems and obstacles that prevent or are likely to prevent, full or effective participation in society.”

Anderson (1943)

“ Social work is a professional service rendered to people for the purpose of assisting them, as individuals or in groups, to attain satisfying relationships and standard of life in accordance with their particular wishes and capacities and in harmony with those of the community.”

Clarke (1947)

“ Social work is a form of professional service comprising a composite of knowledge and skills, parts of which are and of which are not distinctive of social work, which attempts on one hand to help the individuals satisfy their need in the social milieu and on the other to remove as far as possible the barriers which obstruct people from achieving the best of which they are capable.”

W. Friedlander (1951)

“ Social work is that process which deals directly and differentially with persons who have problems relating primarily to their social situation and with endeavours, individual to individual to understand what help is needed and to assist the individual to find and utilize the help indicated.”

W. Friedlander (1955)

“ Social work is a professional service , based on scientific knowledge and skill in human relations, which assist individuals, alone or in groups, to obtain social and personal satisfaction and independence.”

A. Youngdahl (1949)

“ Social work seeks two things for people: economic well-being and the deeper source of happiness, that is self-realisation, the stuff of concern is human behaviour and relationship. Its focus of attention is the individual and his self-adjustment to a recognized reality.”

G. Konopka (1958)

“ Social work is an entity representing three clearly distinguished but inter-related parts: a network of social services, carefully developed methods and process and social policy expressed through social institutions and individuals. All three are based on a view of human being, their interrelationships, and the ethical demands made on them.”

Boehm (1959)

“ Social work seeks to enhance the social functioning of the individuals, singly and in groups, by activities focused upon their social relationships which constitute interaction between men and his environment. These activities can be grouped into three functions: restoration of impaired capacity, provision of individual and social resources and prevention of social dysfunctions.”

H. H. Stroup (1960)	<p>“ Social work is the art of bringing various resources bear on individual, group and community need by the application of a scientific method of helping people to help themselves.”</p>
A. Pincus & Minahan (1978)	<p>“ Social work is concerned with the interaction between people and their social environment which affects the ability of people to accomplish their life tasks, alleviate distress, and realize their aspiration and values.”</p>
Kher (1947)	<p>“ The aim of social work, as generally understood, is to remove social injustice, to relieve distress, to prevent suffering and to assist the weaker member of society to rehabilitate themselves and their families and in short fight the five giant evils of (1) Physical wants, (2) Disease, (3) Ignorance, (4) Squalor, (5) Idleness.”</p>
Sushil Chandra (1954)	<p>“ Social work is a dynamic activity undertaken by public or private effort in the implementation of social policy, with a view to raise the standard of living and to bring about social, economic, political and cultural well-being of the individual, family and the group with society irrespective of its stage of social development.”</p>
Indian Conference of Social Work (1957)	<p>“ Social work is a welfare activity based on humanitarian philosophy, scientific knowledge and technical skill for helping individuals or community, to live a rich and full life.”</p>
S. K. Khinduka (1962)	<p>“ Social work, “ help an individual in his social functioning. It is based on certain knowledge foundation, call for skill in human relationship on the part of its practitioner, and has a set of values furnishing its philosophical base.”</p>
Mirza R. Ahmed (1969)	<p>“ Social work is professional service based on knowledge of human relations and skill relationship and concerned with problem of intra-personal and or inter-personal adjustments resulting from unmet individual, group, or community need.”</p>
Moorthy and Rao (1970)	<p>“ Social work is “ help rendered to any person or group, who is suffering from any disability, mental, physical, emotional or moral, so that the individual or group so helped is enabled is enabled to help himself or itself.”</p>
National Association of Social Workers	<p>Social Work is the professional activity of helping individuals, groups, or communities enhance or restore their capacity for social functioning and creating societal conditions favourable to this goal. Social Work practice consists of the professional application of Social Work values, principles, and techniques to one or more of the following ends: helping people obtain tangible services; counselling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve processes. The practice of Social Work requires knowledge of human development and behaviour; of social, economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interactions of all these factors.</p>

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