

CHAPTER

2

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



KEY CONCEPTS

- 2.1. Concepts Related to Social Work
- 2.2 . History of Social Work
- 2.3. Disciplines Related to Social Work

Social work is a profession which deals with various problems and issues systematically and scientifically. It empowers individuals, groups and communities. It requires specific knowledge, skills and techniques to practise.

There are certain other conceptual areas that seem to be related to social work. What are they?

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Social service, social reform, social welfare, social security, social legislation, social justice and social health are some of the concepts related to social work.

In olden days, householders had shown great interest to provide food and shelter to the travellers. Mutual help and reciprocal relationship was very high in the community in those days. "Interaction and co-operation was considered as a part of social life". People believed that "to serve man is to serve God" (*manavaseva madhavaseva*). Different forms of charity systems existed in our society. Have you heard about the great ruler Ashoka? What did he do for the welfare of his people?

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He introduced many progressive activities for the welfare of his people such as *Satras*, hospitals etc. In ancient times the rulers encouraged people to practice *Dana*.

Dana was treated as a way of purifying the soul of alms-givers and it was a great relief to both the giver and the receiver. This was practised by all religions. The *zakat* system is a practise among Muslims. Joint family system that was prevalent in our society, ensured the well being of each member of that family.

There has been notable change in such practices. What are the major changes that took place in our social system?

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Rapid industrialization, urbanization, globalization etc. created many problems in our society. Society has developed certain specific methods to deal with such problems. Social service, social welfare, social security, social reform, social legislation etc. are some among them. Since they are very much related to the modern profession social work, it is highly relevant to discuss them.

2.1 Concepts Related to Social Work

In this section we will discuss the following concepts

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| A. Social Service | B. Social Welfare |
| C. Social Reform | D. Social Security |
| E. Social Justice | F. Social Health |
| G. Social Legislation | |

A. Social Service

Have you ever helped anyone? Share your experience.

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Do you need any training to do that? Do you need any training to help an old man to cross the road?

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Social service is the help given by the society for the immediate relief of certain problems faced by the members. Social service is the temporary service given to

an individual or group in cash or in kind. It is a service given by a volunteer to a needy man. It does not help a person to help himself. No training is required to practise social service. We need a good mind to help a person who is in need of our help. Can you suggest some similar activities of social service?

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Giving old clothes to tsunami victims, giving alms to poor are some examples of social service. Social service has the following characteristics.

- it is as a temporary assistance.
- it is a voluntary service.
- it is a charity work.
- no need of specialized training.
- no remuneration.
- can be practised by any individual.



B. Social Welfare



Read the following case.

Veena belongs to a financially backward family. Her family does not have a house of their own. Her father is a chronic patient. She told her class teacher about her problems. The teacher promised to discuss her problem in the Gramasabha. They decided to grant fund for the construction of a house for Veena under Indira AvasYojana (IAY).

Can you name the above mentioned activity?

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These types are called social welfare activities . The term social welfare signifies the total well-being of the individual and the community. The objective of social welfare is to provide each individual with the basic economic necessities, high standard of health, decent living conditions, equal opportunities, the well-being of deprived like Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), widows, aged, children and unemployed. 'Social welfare' is an organized system of social services designed to aid individuals and groups to attain satisfying standards of life and health. Social workers facilitate linkage between social welfare schemes and their clients.

Encyclopedia of Social Work defines, social welfare as an organized effort to ensure a basic standard of decency in relation to the physical and mental well being of the citizen.

According to National Association of Social Work (NASW), social welfare is a nation's system of programmes, benefits and services that help people to meet those social, economic, educational and health needs."

Check your progress

1. Identify any three characteristics of social service.
2. Develop your own definition of social welfare.

C. Social Reform



Can you identify the custom in the above picture?

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The picture shows the practice of *sati*, which was prevalent in our country earlier.

Can you list out some other social evils that prevailed in ancient Indian society?

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Various social evils like untouchability, child marriage, *sati* etc. were prevalent in our society. Those customs hindered the development of society. Social reform is a process to make changes or improvements in the society. Social reform involves "deliberate attempt to bring about change in social attitudes, social values and social institutions." This can be achieved through the process of persuasion and public education.

Observe the following pictures of social reformers and identify them.



a. b. c. d.

These reformers believed that social progress can be accomplished through the modification of the social structure. The abolition of *sati* was the result of the attempts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Struggle against caste discrimination and untouchability by Sree Narayana Guru, educational upliftment of Muslims by Sir Sayyid Ahammed Khan, struggle for women's rights among Brahmins by V.T. Bhattathirippad, the upliftment of Dalits by Ayyankali are examples of social reform activities.

Let us do



Collect the details of more social reformers and their contribution to our society.

D. Social Security

Do your parents have Life Insurance Policies?

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Exigencies in life have increased to a large extent. Social security is the protection given to its members by the society against certain risks that may occur at any stage in life. It is a programme of protection against the contingencies of modern life namely sickness, unemployment, old age, dependency, etc.

According to International Labour Organisation (ILO) "social security is the security that society furnishes, through appropriate organizations, against certain risks to which its members are exposed"

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Social security is divided into two. They are:

- a. Social assistance b. Social insurance

a. Social assistance

It is the financial aid given by the government to individuals and families in their contingencies. Here contribution from the person is not at all needed to receive assistance. A family receiving financial assistance from the District Collector for the loss of house due to heavy flood is an example of social assistance. Can you list out some other examples of social assistance?

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Victims of accidents assisted by the government, cancer patients assisted with Karunya Fund are some of the examples of social assistance.

b. Social insurance

Social insurance helps a person financially when he meets with some risks in life. The insured person has to contribute a particular amount regularly to get financial assistance under this scheme. E.g. Life insurance scheme of various insurance companies, Provident Fund (PF), Employees State Insurance (ESI) of the government, etc.

Let us do



Find out more examples of social assistance from the newspapers or magazines and prepare a list of it.

E. Social Justice

Observe the picture given below.



What do you notice?

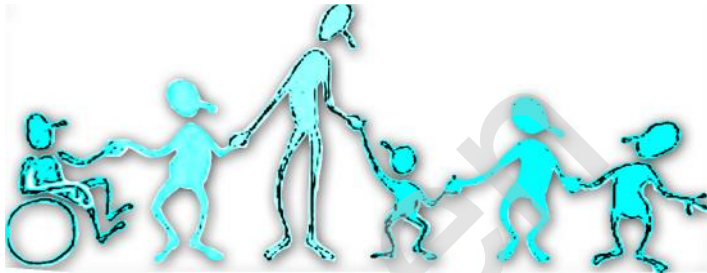
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The picture shows the miserable condition of a boy who is compelled to work in his childhood while his friends joyfully go to school. It is clear that the boy is denied of justice.

Social justice demands equal opportunity and access to resource irrespective of age, religion, caste, sex and other socio-economic conditions. It requires fair treatment of all in education, employment, governance, and other welfare measures. Since social justice is denied to various sections like women, children, aged, farmers, tribes and other weaker sections of the society, social work profession has an added responsibility to be keen on this issue.

F. Social Health

The term social health generally refers to social interactions which promotes social



functioning and adjustment. It refers to the capacity of an individual to relate with one another. It manifests in how the members of the society are treated by others and how they behave towards each other. Social health has great importance with regard to individual's health.

Social health often deals with how an individual is able to socialize with other people and form relationships. The different dimensions of health are interrelated. Today mental and physical health professionals have begun to recognize social interaction as an important factor to overcome illness.

G. Social Legislation

You may be familiar with dowry system in our society. Can you enlist some of the ways by which we can prevent this social evil?

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Conscientization, collective decision, etc. are some of the ways to prevent such evils. Government frames laws to regulate the behaviour of people. Framing of such formal rules to control or regulate social evils and problems are called social legislation.

Can you list out some laws against social evils?

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Dowry Prohibition Act, Consumer Protection Act, Widow Remarriage Act, Juvenile Justice Act, Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act etc. are some of the examples of social legislation.

The term social legislation refers to a body of rules enacted by a recognized body and operated by a community as binding upon itself.

Objectives of Social Legislation

Some objectives of social legislation are:

- promote harmony in a community.
- uphold rights and protect people from injustice.
- ensure the security of the society.
- improve social and economic condition.
- address grievances.
- bring social order through social control.

Check your progress

1. Mention the importance of social legislations to prevent certain social evils.
2. What do you mean by social justice?
3. Describe social health.
4. Name the type of social security where we get assistance without any payment.

2.2 Historical Development of Social Work

Social work has developed through centuries like any other discipline. This discipline attained a professional status very recently. It was developed through the practice of charity, social service, welfare measures, etc. Here we can go through the evolution of social work in the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA) and in India.

A. The evolution of social work in the United Kingdom

The need to help other people is stressed by the major religions. During the Elizabethan period the needy people were helped by the authorities. Such charity works are called 'relief of the paupers'. The Victorian reformers who were distressed by poverty, child neglect and other social ills were pioneers in many of today's social welfare services, although they too had called such services by various other names such as organized charity or philanthropic work or 'relief of destitution'. The history of social work in the UK had gone through various phases

a. A.D 1200 to 1500

From the beginning of religion the priests assumed leadership in providing protection for the helpless widows, orphans and the sick. Charity was promoted

primarily by the desire to receive the grace of God to secure the merits of good deeds for eternal life. In the beginning of the 14th century the poor were divided into two categories; able-bodied and destitutes.

b. A.D 1501 to 1600

Citizens were discouraged from giving alms to the able-bodied beggars. In 1531 Henry VI issued license for begging in restricted areas; punishment was given to those who violated the law - In 1572, Queen Elizabeth introduced general tax for the protection of the poor and appointed overseers of the poor. Thus the government was held responsible for the maintenance of the poor.

The church, especially monasteries played the role of relief centres to the destitute and the disabled. Alms were collected and distributed by the parish and other clergymen who knew the individual and his situation. The churches did not make any effort to provide any permanent remedy for improving the conditions of the poor. Later the responsibility was shifted from the church to the Government.

c. A.D 1600 to 1800

Elizabethan Poor Law introduced in 1601 was a landmark in the history of organized social welfare. This law ensured many relief provisions for the eligible poor. The law also insisted the able bodied beggars to work in 'work houses'. The poor were divided into three categories: able bodied, impotent poor and the dependent child. The overseers of the poor were responsible for the execution of the poor law. They verified eligibility and selected the applicants. The work house act passed in 1692 made provisions for the training of the inmates of work houses.

The table given below shows the classification of poor based on Elizabethan Poor Law.

Type	Criteria
Able bodied poor	Forced to work in the house of corrections or in the work house, not eligible to receive alms.
Impotent poor	Unable to work and placed in alm houses (sick, old, blind, deaf etc.)
Dependent child	Orphans, the deserted, children from very poor families.

d. A.D.1800 to 1900

In this period social scientist Adam Smith stated that government should minimize its involvement in any field for any purpose as it will lead to much dependency. Malthus is of the opinion that 'if there were a lot of free services, this will lead to the desire for more children'. So he recommended an end to the charity work. As per the recommendations of the Royal commission (1832) able bodied continued to work in able bodied homes and better help for slum dwellers were provided in 1834. In the Factories Act (1833) only minimum welfare facilities were provided to the industrial workers.

Formation of Charity Organization Societies

The formation of charity organization society was an important milestone in the development of charity programmes. London Charity Organization Society was the first such organization formed in the year 1869. They undertook the following strategies to help the needy effectively.

- i. stopped giving doles.
- ii. co-ordinated the distribution of relief.
- iii. verified each application carefully.
- iv. conducted interviews to assess the genuineness of the applicants.
- v. formulated plans for the treatments.

Settlement House Movement

Cannon Samuel Augustus Barnett founded University Settlement House which was named as Toynbee Hall. Its objectives were:

- i. Educational and cultural development of the poor.
- ii. Imparting information to the poor for their improvement.
- iii. Developing consciousness towards health problems and the need for enacting legislation.

e. A.D 1900 onwards

Newly formed Charity Organisation Societies (COS) started to practise professional social work and began to provide training to social workers. In the year 1899 Social work training was started and introduced. At first two years training programme in social work with theory and practice was started.

The table below shows the important legislations enacted to standardize the social welfare schemes of UK.

Year	Laws	Purpose
1905	Poor Law Commission	Pensions for the aged and unemployed, Public employment services.
1906	Meals Act	Providing free meals
1907	Education Act	Free medical examination of school children.
1911	National Insurance Act	Compulsory health insurance to the workers who belong to the lower income groups.
1925	Old Age Contributory Act	Old age pension.
1941	Beveridge Commission	Social Insurance, Public assistance, Children's allowance etc.
1944	Disabled Persons (Employment) Act	Employ the disabled persons in commercial or industrial enterprises.

Let us do

Prepare a timeline regarding the evolution of social work in the UK

B. History of Social Work in the USA

The earliest forms of social work activities were started in the USA from time immemorial. The history of social work in the USA can be divided into the following stages.

- i. The Colonial Period (1620-1776)
- ii. Civil War and Industrial Revolutions (1776-1860)
- iii. The Industrialization -The human side (1860-1900)
- iv. Social work, seeking professional characteristics (1900-1930)
- v. Highly professionalized discipline (1930-onwards)

Charity Organization Societies (COS)

The charity organization society movement was started in the USA at Buffalo in 1877. The New York Charity Organization Society made revolution in the field of organized charity work within 15 years by extending its activities to 92

American cities. The Scientific charity approach enabled Charity Organization Societies (COS) to understand and take care of family problems. The charity organization societies started in Boston and Philadelphia in 1878 operated on the following principles:

- i. Detailed investigation on applications for charity
- ii. A central system of registration to avoid duplication
- iii. Co-operation between various relief agencies.
- iv. Extensive use of voluntary friendly visitors.

Settlement House Movement

Rapid urbanization, industrialization and immigration produced social settlement movement in the USA. This movement combined social advocacy and social service with proper intervention through group work and neighbourhood organization strategies. The settlement house workers established neighbourhood centres and offered services such as citizenship training, adult education, counselling, recreation and daycare. The social group work, social action and community organization methods have emerged from Settlement House Movement.

Child Welfare Movement

The rapid growth of manufacturing industries aggravated the pathetic condition of children, so Children Aid Society (1853) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1857) were started in New York City. This led to the formation of Child Welfare Movement. The aim of the agencies was to rescue children from inadequate homes and from the streets.

Development of Professional Social Work Education in the USA

The employment of paid staff and their training by Charity Organization Societies (COS) facilitated a shift from the unorganized charity and social service to the beginning of an organized and systematic social work.

The first such training centre organized by New York Charity Organization Society (NYCOS) in 1898 is currently known as the Columbia University. Hospital based training and social work services were also initiated around the same time at Boston Hospital. The First World War increased the casualties among the poor, consequently various wartime charity programmes were initiated and Welfare Acts were passed.



Mary E Richmond

World War I provided unique opportunities for social case workers to prove the necessity of their skills. Thus the prestige of social work rose up in war related activities such as the Red Cross home services.

Mary E Richmond could be considered the first professional social worker in the US. She became the assistant treasurer of Baltimore Charity Organization Society. Later on she became practitioner, teacher and theoretician of the Charity Organization Movement. In the National Conference on Charities and Corrections held at Toronto, she advocated the establishment of training schools for professional social workers (1897).

The other group of social workers like Hane Addams, Florence Kelly, Edith argued for bringing of legislation to improve the working conditions of neighbourhood organizations.

The book 'Social Diagnosis' by Mary Richmond in 1917 is considered as the foundation for the theoretical basis of social work. Chicago School and Boston school formed the second and third schools of social work in the USA respectively. The American Association of Schools of Social Work was founded in 1919 to facilitate communication among the schools.

C. Evolution of Social Work in India

The systematic development of social work in India may be grouped into different periods.

a. Social Reforms in Ancient Period (2500 BC-AD 1200)

In ancient India, the nature of social service was that of charity. The earliest reference to charity is to be found in the Rig Veda (Chap1 XIII, 2) which encourages charity by saying "May the one who gives, shine the most". Upanishad prescribed that every house holder must practise charity.

In ancient India social welfare activities were performed by *Yagnas*. Each one contributed his bit towards the *Yagnas*. The intention was the welfare of all. *Yagnashalas* were classrooms where men and women were taught the spirit of working together. Bhagavat Gita insists that the privileged class has a moral duty to serve the poor. Such persons who served the society with all their ability were free from all sins. But those who cooked for themselves or produced for their own gain were eating sin (Gita chap-3-13) According to Manu it was his duty to feed his guests first, then his servant, he and his wife might eat last of all.

Charity or *dana* became the instrument of virtue of the privileged sections and it was to be dispensed voluntarily. Later in the Vedic period *dana* became institutionalized and came to be associated with religious ideology. *Dana* was given

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to acquire *punya* (merit). Kautilya highlights the duties of the king towards the welfare and happiness of his subjects, "In the happiness of the subjects lies the king's happiness."

The evolution of Buddhism influenced the character of the Indian society- from the tribal agricultural settlement to a class based agrarian economy. Buddhism laid great emphasis on *punya* and *dana* (charity). Guilds were important corporate organizations which performed a variety of economic and welfare functions during Buddhist period. Guilds provided social security to the oppressed class of the society. Bimbisara paid special attention to the development of roads and agriculture.

Can you remember the welfare reforms of Ashoka the Great, learned in your history classes? What are they?

-

Ashoka developed a comprehensive system of social welfare. He appointed a superintendent to look after the welfare of women. The welfare programmes were under the overall charge of High Commissioners of Charity (Dharma mahamathras). Many reforms were introduced in the field of women's welfare, rehabilitation of prisoners, rural development, free medical care, regulation of prostitution and provisions of public utilities like roads, wells, rest houses for travellers etc.



Ashoka the great



Kanishka

Kanishka gave liberal donation and grant for the construction of Buddhist Viharas, monasteries, stupas etc. These were the centres of learning and help to the needy people. During the Gupta period some more welfare activities executed. Harsha Vardhana was an enlightened ruler who established hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages and homes for the destitutes.

b. Social Reform in Medieval Period

The duties of a King included the maintenance of peace, protection from external attack and to provide justice. Malik Ali, a noble of Balban, was more generous in giving alms. Gias-Udheen Thuglak was



Akbar the great



Humayun

charitable and King Muhammad Gavan spent all his wealth on the poor and led a simple life. Humayun was the first king who made a bold attempt to prohibit *sati*. Akbar was a great ruler who brought about many reforms in Indian society and abolished slavery in 1583. He maintained a policy of religious equality and granted full freedom to his subjects on religious matters. Aurangzeb looked after the welfare of his people and led a very simple life.

c. Social Reform in Modern Period

Identify these eminent reformers

Rajaram Mohan Roy was the greatest Indian of the 19th century. He was the morning star of Indian renaissance who sowed the seeds of religious and social reforms. He



a.



b.

used his power and influence towards the abolition of *sati* and he was in favour of widow remarriage and female education.

Iswarchandra Vidya Sagar advocated widow remarriage, economic self-reliance, women's education and prohibition of polygamy. It was with the joint effort of Mohan Roy and Vidyasagar that the Widow Remarriage Act was passed in 1856. Professor Bal Shastri Jain Bhaker of Bombay fought against the evil customs like

sati, female infanticide etc. and tried to frame laws to abolish these customs.

Gopal Hari Desh Mukh of Bombay promoted modern education, established dispensaries, maternity homes, orphanages etc. Sasipade Banerjee was a notable reformer of Bengal who worked for the cause of women's education and widow remarriage. He arranged several marriages of widows and gave shelter to widows at his residence. Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan played a prominent role for the education of women and to wipe out social evils among the Muslims.

Gandhiji became active in political as well as social fields in 1920. He symbolized the integration of political reform with social reform. He worked for the upliftment of women, dalits and fought for the equality between men and women. He emphasized the need for freedom from evils along with political independence. The contribution of Gandhiji like Sarvodaya, Andhyodaya, Non violence struggle, Panchyathiraj are closely related with the philosophies of social work.

Contributions of Organizations

The important organizations like Brahma Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, Arya Samaj, Theosophical Society, Ramakrishna Mission, Muhammedan Anglo Oriental Society, etc. played significant role in the development of social work. Brahma Samaj was founded by Rajaram Mohan Roy and worked for the abolition of Sati, promotion of widow remarriage and for women's welfare. Arya Samaj was founded by Swamy Dayananda Saraswathy in 1875. He opposed the caste system and child marriage. Muhammedan Anglo Oriental Society was founded by Sir Sayyid Ahammed Khan.

Theosophical society was founded in 1881 in Madras by Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott. Ramakrishna Mission founded by Swami Vivekananda in 1897 started its programmes with education, treatment and general help. Gopal Krishna Gokhale established the Servants of India Society for social service.

Modern Social Work

Modern social work was introduced in India by Christian Missionaries in the beginning of the 19 century. When they started making houses for orphans and destitutes, Indian social reformers like Sasipada Banerjee, Phule and Karve too started homes for the widows.

Some social and religious associations like Arya Samaj, Prarthana Samaj and Ramakrishna Mission played significant roles in providing institutional welfare service in India.

Social Work Education in India



The formal training in social work was started in India in 1936 at Dhorabji Tata School of Social Work at Mumbai. Now it is a deemed university named Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

In Kerala, the first school of social work training was started in 1954 at Sacred Heart College, Thevara, which later shifted to Rajagiri College of Social Science, Kalamassery. At present a number of universities and institutions are offering graduate, post graduate, M. Phil and Ph. D level training in social work.

The introduction of social work at higher secondary level resulted in many changes in the field of social work training and practice in Kerala. In a developing country like India, social workers have a major role in the socio-economic, cultural, health and related areas.

The major associations of social work are NAPSWI (National Association of Professional Social Workers in India), ASSK (Association of Schools of Social Work in Kerala), and KAPS (Kerala Association of Professional Social Work).

Check your progress

1. Which was the first school of social work in India?
2. Point out any three remarkable developments in the evolution of social work in America.

Let us do



*Prepare a ladder showing the development of social work in the USA
Conduct a quiz programme on the history of Social Work in the UK,
the USA and India.*

2.3 Disciplines Related to Social Work

Can you list out the various disciplines that contributed to the theoretical basis of social work?

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Social sciences form an integral part of social work knowledge. They provide the basic knowledge about the socio economic and cultural environment of the people. Social work is comparatively a new discipline focusing on solving psycho-social problems. The knowledge base of this profession is very much linked to the behavioural and social disciplines like psychology, sociology, economics, history, politics, management and social anthropology. These disciplines form an integral part of social work knowledge as well as practice. No social worker can ignore the significance of sociological, psychological, anthropological and economic data in the study and the solution of problems. Hence it is important to have an understanding of the relationship of these disciplines to social work.



a. Sociology

Sociology is concerned with the study of the social life of man and his relationship with his environment. It is the study of social situation. The network of social relationship is called society. The subject matter of sociology includes:

- i. **Social morphology:** population its qualities, social groups, social institutions and organizations.
- ii. **Social processes:** the characteristic ways in which interactions occurs.
- iii. **Social control:** religion, tradition, folkways, mores, belief, laws etc.

- iv. **Social pathology:** crime, juvenile delinquency, suicide, unemployment, corruption, cultural deviation, etc.
- v. **Socialization:** a process through which a man develops into a social being.
- vi. **Social change:** the modification which occurs in the life pattern of people.

Thus we can say that sociology is the scientific study of human organizations, groups and their interactions.

Social work derives most of its knowledge from sociology because the psychosocial problems of an individual cannot be diagnosed and solved without having the knowledge of his social environment.

b. Psychology

Psychology studies the general principles of human behaviour. It is a study of the individual in totality. Psychology is solely concerned with the mental aspects of an individual. It gives major emphasis on the functioning of the nervous system. Study of psychology helps us to understand why and how human beings behave in a particular situation. Man's activities are highly determined by his mental configurations. His emotions, attitudes and past experiences decide how he acts and reacts. Psychology is able to provide much insight into the personal dimensions of an individual. It studies human behaviour, motivation and perception. It also tells us the factors responsible for the formation of behaviour. Social worker needs the knowledge of these factors as he tries to influence the behaviour of the client. Psychology as a discipline is highly used by the social work professionals to understand his clients and their behaviour.

c. Economics

The economic activities of individuals are the subject of study in economics. It is related to production, consumption, exchange and distribution of wealth. The economic aspects of life are important factors in his growth and development. In order to deal with the problems of man and society, it becomes essential to study social interactions' but social interactions are influenced by economic conditions. Social work studies the needs of man including the economic needs. If these needs are not fulfilled, they develop into problems and come under the purview of social work.

d. Political Science

Political science may be defined as the science of the state. It explains the nature of the state, its importance, organizations, principles of administration and policies. It is concerned with the political life of a state. Social work believes that various conditions of the state and the society affect one's development and behaviour.

The state has the power to control all types of economic, moral and religious reactions and interactions. Social work is concerned with human relations and interactions. Therefore social worker requires the knowledge of the state and various functionaries.

There are a number of problems which can be solved by enacting legislation or changing the present legislation. For this the study of political science is essential.

e. Social Anthropology

As the very term implies, anthropology is the study of human beings. Contrary to the other social and natural sciences, it studies human beings in its totality. Anthropology is the scientific study of the physical, social, and cultural development and behaviour of human beings since their appearance on earth (I M Jacob & B T Stern). This knowledge is essential to practise social work.

In their study, anthropologists give due consideration to the simple pre-literate societies, along with the complex urbanized communities. Anthropology also advocates cross cultural and comparative study of societies and cultures. In short, anthropology is a bio-social science that examines human beings in a holistic perspective with a field based and cross cultural methodology.

Social work students receive information regarding the social organizations, their values, beliefs and customs on the basis of this information, they understand the needs and problems of the tribal people. Then, a plan of action is prepared for the solution of their problems. This knowledge can be derived only through the study of anthropology.

Check your progress

1. List out disciplines closely related to social work.
2. What is the relationship between social work and sociology?

Let us do



Prepare a powerpoint presentation showing the influence of various disciplines on the development of social work.

Let us sum up

In this chapter, we discuss the concepts related to social work, evolution of social work as a profession, social work and its relation with other disciplines etc. In the first part of this chapter, we discuss the importance of social work and related concepts like social

service, social welfare, social reform, social security, social justice, social health and social legislation.

We practice social service in our day to day life, but it does not require any training. Social welfare signifies the total well being of the individual and the community and plays a vital role in the upliftment of the disadvantaged sections of society. Social reform is a deliberate attempt to bring about change in social attitudes, social values and social institutions. Social security provides security against unforeseen contingencies of life. Social security is provided in the form of as social insurance and social assistance. Social justice focuses the importance of fairness and justice. Social health emphasises the importance of mutual relationship and interdependence among members of the society. Social legislation is the framing of formal rules against social evils.

In the second part of this chapter, we go through the history of social work in UK, USA, and India. The evolution of social work in United Kingdom has gone through various phases – AD 1200-1500, AD 1501-1600, AD 1601-1800 and 1801-1900. We could understand that the introduction of Elizabethan Poor law was a landmark in the history of social work in UK.

The history of social work in USA can be classified into Colonial Period (1620-1776), Civil War and Industrial Revolution (1776-1860), Industrialization -the human side (1860-1900), social work seeking professional characteristics (1900-1930) and highly professionalized discipline (1930 onwards). Charity Organisation society, Settlement House Movement, and implementation of professional training centres played an important role in the development of social work in USA. The first training centre for social work was organised by New York Charity Organization Society (NYCOS) in 1898, currently known as Columbia University. Mary E Richmond was considered as a pioneer in this profession.

The development of social work in India was associated with social reform movements in ancient period, medieval period and modern period. Organisations like Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj, Theosophical Society, Ramakrishna Mission, Muhammedan Anglo Oriental Society etc. played a significant role in the development of social work in India. The first School of social work started in India in 1936 is now known as Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

The knowledge base of social work is related to various disciplines. The last part of this chapter discuss the relationship between social work and other disciplines like sociology, psychology, economics and social anthropology.

Learning Outcomes

- ◆ Familiarises the basic concepts related to social work.
- ◆ Differentiate social work and related concepts
- ◆ Understands the evolution of social work in different countries.
- ◆ Analyses contribution of various disciplines to social work.

Evaluation Questions

1. Prepare a chart showing social work and its related concepts.
2. Rearrange the following correctly:

A	B	C
1869	National Insurance Act	Providing free meals
1941	Elizabethan Poor Law	London charity organization societies
1911	Meals Act	Public assistance, Children's allowance
1906	Formation of COS	Compulsory health insurance for workers
1601	Bevarridge Commission Report	Categorized people into three

3. 'Rajaram Mohan Roy is considered as a contributor to the development of social work in India'. Comment.
4. Complete the Venn diagram showing the relationship between social work and related disciplines.

