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SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION: HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRACTICE

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ABSTRACT:

The social work profession advances social change, problem solving in human relationships and the strengthening and freedom of individuals to upgrade well-being. Using theories of human behaviour and social systems, social work mediates at the points where individuals cooperate with their environments. Principles of human rights and social equity are crucial to social work. Thus social workers have not only been charged with the duty of upholding human rights but are also guided by principles of human rights and social justice. However, in promoting human rights, social workers tread a

tightrope over a chasm that requires considerable knowledge and skills to cross safely. It is here that it becomes essential for the students of social work to develop clarity on concept of human rights, evolution and main currents in human rights, linkages with social work profession, and issues and challenges that social workers face and confront in upholding and practicing human rights. The main emphasis of this paper is to understand the concept of social work profession and human rights and to analysis the social work practice in human rights.

KEYWORDS: Social Work Profession, Human Rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights can be characterized as those rights without which individuals can't live with dignity, freedom (political, economic, social, and cultural) and equity in any country or state regardless of colour, place of birth, ethnicity, race, religion or sex or any other such contemplations. These rights are characteristic in human instinct and in this way ensured and secured by the state without differentiation of any kind. When such rights are denied to an individual, regardless of whether by the

state or non state actors, it comprises human rights infringement. At the point when large scale infringement of such rights happen, it comprises human rights mishandles. Human rights abuses in this context could allude to large scale infringement submitted more than once by state or non state actors to any community or group of individuals in their everyday lives. Further, human rights abuses happen when discretionary arrests, killings, torment, rape, repressive legislations, segregation and so on are done methodically against any community or areas of society by the state or non state actors with the objective of

smothering a specific group's aspiration or demand for equivalent way of life versus different groups in that nation. Human rights per se refer to rights of individuals which are deemed necessary by virtue of their being the members of human community. It is in bracketing these rights for effective practice that human rights took the form of a bunch of rights that spread to all political, economic and social areas. In 1987 United Nations defined human rights as those rights which are inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as human beings. Human rights and fundamental freedoms enable us to completely develop

and utilize our human characteristics, our intelligence, our abilities, and our conscience and to fulfil our spiritual and other needs.

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

The basic foundation of social work practice is that of meeting human needs and developing human potential and resources. Social workers aim to prevent or alleviate individual, group and community problems and improve the quality of life of all. Frequently social work practice is directed towards the fulfilment of human needs within environments that will not sustain them. In these circumstances, social workers must understand economic, social, cultural and political barriers that inhibit the fulfilment of human needs. Social workers frequently find themselves in potential alliance with those who are excluded from obtaining basic human needs by these barriers.

Social work originates from humanitarian and democratic ideals. Historically, the profession has challenged inequities among individuals and groups. Present a core value of the profession is to challenge injustices and oppression. The profession maintains a dual focus on both the individual and his or her environment, realizing that an individual's environment generally plays a key role in the fulfilment of an individual's needs. Social work occupies a unique position among professions because not only do social workers attempt to assist individuals, but they also attempt to bring about change on a broader, more global level.

In other words, the social work profession exists to help individuals meet basic needs and to bring about positive social change in society as a whole. This focus on the dignity of human worth creates a natural affinity or bond to the concept of human rights.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To examine the concept of human rights and social work profession.
- To examine relation of social work and human rights.
- To analyses social work practice meeting human rights.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope the study is to analysis the concept of human rights and social work and it practice to meeting the human rights.

RELATION OF SOCIAL WORK AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Social workers have focussed on valuing social justice and social change in micro-level relationships and attempted to work with clients in ways that are ameliorative and respectful of their diversity and differences. These concerns have provided the backdrop for the development of a human rights-based social work. National Association of Social Workers (2000) in its policy statement International Policy on Human Rights endorses the Universal Declaration, conventions and treaties that according to National Association of Social Workers provide a human rights template for social work.

Human rights framework provides a prism through which to view social work profession's values, ethics and principles which are necessarily expected from social workers in their practical settings. As is said when social workers fail to operationalize these principles, they victimize clients and disempowered them. Conversely, upholding these practice principles facilitates empowerment. The section 4 of International Federation of Social Workers and International Association of Schools of Social Work document provides two principles fundamental to social work viz., Human Rights and Dignity and Social Justice both the principles are reproduced below.

These delineate how social work experts are commanded to maintain and advance human rights perspective. Social work depends on regard for the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and the rights that pursue from this. Social workers ought to maintain and protect every individual's physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual integrity and well-being.

This means:

1. Respecting the rights to self-determination: Social workers should regard and elevate individual's right to make their own decisions and choices, independent of their values and life choices, if this doesn't threaten the rights and legitimate interests of others.
2. Promoting the right to participation: Social worker ought to advance the full involvement and cooperation of individuals utilizing their services in ways that empower them to be enabled in all aspects of decisions and actions affecting their lives.
3. Treating each person as a whole: Social workers ought to be worried about the whole individual, inside the family, community and societal and natural environments, and should try to perceive all parts of an individual's life.
4. Identifying and developing strengths: Social workers should concentrate on the qualities of all individuals, groups and communities and in this manner advance their strengthening.

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE MEETING HUMAN RIGHTS

The global standards in the social work profession recognize the core purposes of social work in the worldwide setting. These unmistakably show how social workers advance the realization human rights by:

- Facilitating the inclusion of marginalised, socially excluded, dispossessed, vulnerable and at risk groups of people.
- Addressing and challenging barriers, inequalities and injustices that exist in society.
- Forming short and longer term working relationships with and preparing people, families, groups, organisations and communities to upgrade their prosperity and their problem solving capacities.
- Assisting and educating individuals to acquire services and resources in their communities.
- Formulating and implementing policies and programmes that upgrade individual's well-being, promoting development and human rights and aggregate social harmony and social stability, to the extent that such stability doesn't violate human rights.
- Encouraging individuals to take part in advocacy as to pertinent local, national, regional and/or international concerns.
- Acting with as well as for individuals to advocate the detailing and focused implementation of policies that are reliable with the ethical standards of the profession.
- Acting with or potentially for individuals to advocate changes in those policies and structural conditions that keep up individuals in marginalised, dispossessed and vulnerable positions, and those that encroach the aggregate social harmony and stability of various ethnic groups, to the extent that such stability doesn't violate human rights.
- Working towards the protection of individuals who aren't in a situation to do so themselves, for example children and youth in need of care and people experiencing mental illness or mental retardation, inside the parameters of acknowledged and morally sound legislation.
- Engaging in social and political activity to affect social policy and financial development and to impact change by critiquing and dispensing inequalities.
- Delivering services and being a positive presence for the whole community.
- Offering empowerment and protection to people and the community through a privilege based approach.
- Working with vulnerable groups.
- Responding to the changing national and worldwide contexts in professional and practical ways.
- Using their expertise, knowledge and experience to basically get and analyse social cohesion at an all encompassing level.
- Skilfully keeping up the balance in their key position between the individual and society, between service provision and service development, between social care and social control, between interpersonal and national politics and more.

- Actively promoting financial and social equity that can sometimes be at extensive individual risk or political abuse.

CONCLUSION

Human rights are sometimes referred to as fundamental rights, basic rights, inborn rights, natural rights, and birth rights. They are essential for all people to secure themselves against the State or public authority or against individuals from its very own class. These are characterized as inalienable, connection with human dignity and necessary for the purpose of fulfilment of human life. Social work profession aim to solve the problems of the society in the process of problem solving social worker also try to change and development of society by practice in human rights in a useful way.

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