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## PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION – THE NEED FOR CHANGE

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### ABSTRACT

*The Social Work Education in India is now 60 years old and it is widely recognized that social work education is vital for the National Development. The most important challenge in the coming decade of 21<sup>st</sup> Century will be the optimum use of social work know how in the non-corporate, unrecognized and other socially relevant sectors of the economy. In fact, we are living, as we all know in fascinating dynamic world of challenges and opportunities. The challenges could be of satellite wars, AIDS, Terrorism and Environmental pollution. There is a need for an organized human effort supported by alert human mind to face these challenges and exploit the opportunities by managing the inventions and innovations effectively.*



**KEYWORDS:** *personality characteristics , male and female adolescents.*

### INTRODUCTION

Over the past decades the post war consensus on the welfare state has been undermined by economic crisis, political instability and right-wing social policies. In all western countries public debate had focused on the public spending particularly on welfare and on the measures to reduce it. Austerity policies have squeezed welfare provision under Governments of the various parties in India is last decade. In all sides are dissatisfied with the old systems of welfare. The new right denounces the profligacy and inefficiency of public services while feminists and leftists insist that social welfare provisions must be transferred to establish near democratic forms of socialized provisions. After fifty years of consensus, the debate about welfare has entered a new phase.

In practice the attempts by Governments in India to restructure welfare services have encountered difficulties. Welfare professionals, trade unions and substantial bodies of public welfare and that appeal of anti- welfare prejudices can create a new consensus of support to such a policy. Others argue that the economic and political consequences of dismantling the welfare state infrastructure would be too great for any developing democracy to face. The attack on welfare and debate about the future of welfare services proved the context for reorganization of social work education curricular, which will need to include the new series of topics devoted to the “State of Welfare” covering the different aspects welfare state, analyzing new and emerging trends on social work organizations and delivery of services and the economic and the economic and political determinants of welfare policy.

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**SOCIAL WORK ORGANISATIONS: CHALLENGES FOR NEW MILLENIUM**

An organization is an entity formed for the purpose of achieving same objectives and it is composed of personnel and is managed by professional social work administrators depending on the size, nature and scope. Opinions have opposed drastic cuts on welfare services. In general resistance has been most effective in relation to health provisions, where established facilities tend to enjoy considerable public popularity, and least effective in social security and housing, where unpopular state services have been the targets of hostile media comment and political propaganda. However, despite same successful delaying tactics, the general trend towards retrenchment and piecemeal privatization is unmistakable. The increasing defensive position of the welfare agencies and their supporters, and the grouping a reliance of welfare a charitable and voluntary initiatives, large and small, reflects the growing success of Government presume in transferring the cost of caring away from the state.

The attempts by Government to restructure welfare and the continuing resistance to austerity policies have provoked widespread debate. Some consider that capitalist county crisis strategies will necessitate major rationalization of the organization. The incredible fast speed and pace of changes initiated by the revolutions in various fields such as technology, economics, computers, informatics, automation, biotechnology, industry, agriculture etc. negotiated by people working in different organizations. The organizations have now become source of power and influence and have acquired a complex structure. The society is making challenging demands on the organization than at any time in the past. Resultantly this has brought about the changes in the roles and responsibilities of the organizations and professional social workers are made to identify them examine the course contents of social work education and overhaul it suiting to the societies needs.

Social Work agencies rendering and distributing services are not just a welfare entity. They are also social entity and as such cannot ignore the social consequences of their organizational activities. Social work organizations are required to operate in a social environment and have to function within a certain limits imposed from within and outside the organizations. In a mixed economy they cannot merely remain service oriented agencies, but are required to shoulder social responsibilities to satisfy the of directors, supporters, government, employees, clients, consumers, electorates and the community as a whole. Administrators of social service organizations have also to do managing of the social changes. Social Workers have to assume to roles of change agents and the trustees of socio economic and social welfare acting on the organizations a professional social worker of today is not only the trustee of resources in the organization, but also trustee of social interests and community welfare.

A part form welfare obligations of the agencies, the social workers will have satisfy the social obligations as well. Naturally the standard of duties of social workers will have to be changed. New ethical standards have to come up in which interests of the various segments of the society have to be given due weight age and considerations.

**EMERGING TRENDS IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION:**

The changes in Indian social structure and the roles and responsibilities of professional social workers are being highlighted by my other colleagues in this colloquium. I wish to emphasize the contribution of social work education in this paper. In the first place the social work education has to act as a reservoir of trained manpower to provide social service organization the potential opportunities in a dynamic, versatile and fast changing social environment. In the second place, the course contents of social work education need to be re-structured by keeping in mind not the number of social work students we are training, but the incapacitation to enable them to meet the challenge of social obligations, their organization are required to meet. In the third place, the social work students are required with the skill of environmental scanning so as to realize the implications of fast changing social, economic and political milieu in the social work field in which their organizations are operating. Unlike a doctor or an engineer, a professional social worker cannot rely on the theory that his commitment & to his profession and that his tools techniques by and large are unaffected by socio-political values. A Social worker's decision is affecting the society in a far reaching way and knowledge

of the values and structural changes in the system in imperative for survival and growth of their organizations.

**The Social work education of today must lay emphasis on the following aspects in the course contents:-**

- A. Systems Theory & organizational management.
- B. Orientation in Behavioral sciences and transactional analysis skills.
- C. Human Relation Management and Human Resources Development Techniques.
- D. Consumers' Protection and satisfaction and consumer protection Act.1986.
- E. Social laws including Pollution Control Act.
- F. A study of Human Rights Movement.
- G. Social Service ethics and social values.
- H. Management of Public Relations Skills.
- I. Social Policies, Welfare Policies and Social Action.
- J. Bio-Technology for Ecological Balance.
- K. Information technology for social education and social control.
- L. Social Accounting including human resources accounting and auditing systems.
- M. Social responsibilities of social welfare organization.

**CONCLUSION:**

The success of this course depends upon the personality of the teacher. He must properly inculcate among the student proper code of conduct, spirit of service and missionary zeal. The teacher has to be thoroughly read -- to do justice to the teaching of this proposed course. Social Work Education and training in my view must be practice led. If it is not, I fear, it will be employer led and that will be detrimental to educations, students and clients alike. I would urge social work education and practitioner to consider the issues raised tin this paper and take the debate forward together. The concerns of today's colloquium should inform future development of social work if we are to avoid a retreat into discrete areas and lose sight of a social structure and an institutional configuration which conditions and created the problems with which are social workers must deal.

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