



## Role of social worker in community development: A review

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### Abstract

Every members of the community desire to stay safe, healthy and wealthy in all manners. To enjoy all the amenities of the society one who need to have a vibrant economic status as well as excellent public services. Social services and social work have important role in helping the people to improve the quality of life by creating awareness and sustain the community by creating employment opportunities on their own effort. Present paper is an essential contribution to understand the role of social worker in community development (CD). Effective social work services promote independence and resilience, enabling some of our most vulnerable sections of the community. Present effort is to know the role of social worker in the process of community development.

**Keywords:** social work, community development, society

### Introduction

Social work services have an essential contribution to make in achieving that goal. Social work education have many challenges, but with the effort of educators, field practitioners, and social work trainees it is turning towards to meet local needs and adopt local techniques to resolve issues of an individual, the group and the community by adopting Community development skills. Community development is core component of social work and it is concentrate on increase the literacy rate, create and generate employment opportunity, poverty eradication, and eradication of acute hungeriness, gender equality and welfare of the vulnerable sections of the society by adopting methods of social work <sup>[1]</sup>.

The word community has been derived from two words of Latin namely *\_com\_* and *\_munis\_*. In English *\_com\_* means together and *\_munis\_* means to serve. Thus, community means to serve together. It means, the community is an organisation of human beings framed for the purpose of serving together. (Mondal, n.d.). The view of small community as a basic unit in society was most explicitly developed by Robert Redfield. For him, the little community had four defining qualities: distinctiveness, small size, self-sufficiency and homogeneity of inhabitants. (Worsely, 1970 as cited by Siddiqui, 1997) <sup>[2]</sup>.

Communities are undergoing great changes in transforming from locality-focused and horizontally organized communities emphasizing primary and holistic relationships and responsibilities to vertical integrated communities and extensions of a global economy. As we lose the cohesive traditional community, new models of communities are being formed, including the virtual community. (Hardcastle, Powers and Wenocur, 2011) <sup>[3]</sup>. Hence, social work practice with communities require a sound understanding of community and different approaches to it. This review article examines the concept of *\_community\_* 'in *\_community\_* social work' which is perceived as a comprehensive dimension of professional social work practice where communities are the setting for interventions in various fields. It reviews the concept, definitions and

theories of community; and observes how it is understood generally in social work and specifically in community social work.

The concept of community development has undergone drastic changes over the years since primitive society. These changes have been caused by the ever-changing needs and wants of communities. Let us look at how community development has evolved from the primitive and pre-industrial period right through to the modern society. Social work from its initiation is rooted in a participatory manner. But unfortunately, community participation has not got its status in the social work circle. The ultimate aim of the social worker should be the empowerment of the people in the society, so as to deal with their problems in an effective manner by using their resources fruitfully and effectively. It is the social worker in his/her various roles must elicit the participation from the clientele group and various levels of community. So it is a must for every social worker to have ground level knowledge on community participation. The intention of the article is to bring a basic level understanding about the concept of community participation, its underlying dimensions, and supporting theories and so on.

### Objectives of the Study

1. To develop an understanding of community development as a core component of social work practice.
2. To examine the Roles of social worker in community Development Study setting- adjoining areas of Bihar sharif

### Conceptual Framework <sup>[1]</sup>

**Social work**-Social work is an organized profession to extend the helping hands to an individual, group and community, for their betterment as well as sustaining them to help themselves by adopting varies professional strategies. Disadvantaged sections of the society like: weaker sections, downtrodden orphans' labors etc. are considered to be needy of the profession, Social worker can provide psychological counseling, guidance and assistance

in form of helping the people to help themselves.

**Social Worker:** A social worker is a professional who works with the people to help themselves, so that people can manage their daily lives with dignity and respect.

**Community Development:** "Community Development is a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and fullest possible reliance upon the community's initiative."

### Methodology

Explorative research methodology has been used to explore role of a social work community development in changing the life style scenario on India society. The paper is designed with secondary source, academic articles, online journals, expert's expressions and self-observations to comprehend and analyse the new wave of social service buffeting the lifestyle of the weaker sections, downtrodden, orphans etc in India.

### Social Work - As a Profession and community Development

The social work profession is broader than most disciplines with regard to the range and types of problems addressed with the settings in which the work takes place, the levels of practice, interventions used, and populations served. Social workers may be engaged in a variety of occupations ranging from hospitals, schools, clinics, police departments, public agencies, court systems to private practices or businesses. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior. The main tasks of professional social workers can include a variety of services such as case management (linking clients with agencies and programs that will meet their psychosocial needs), counseling (psychotherapy), human services management, social welfare policy analysis, policy and practice development, community organising, international, social and community development, advocacy, teaching (in schools of social work), and social research.

### Role of Social Worker in Community Development <sup>1</sup>

social work has a close association with the mobilisation of resources and it entrust with the social worker as a case worker, group worker, community organiser, social welfare administrator, social actionist or a social work researcher who has to mobilise these resources for the effective application of methods in social work practice. The word 'participation' is directly or indirectly stated as well as its necessity in the primary and secondary methods of social work. In the case of a social case worker, the indirect treatment i.e., environment modification or environment manipulation brings the immediate community to play for the well-being of the client. In the case of social group work, the internal and external resources have to be mobilised for the effective group functioning. In social welfare administration, the earlier approach of POSDCORB is now replaced by participatory project approach. Likewise in social research, more importance is being given now for the participatory research as well as participation of the respondents in research.<sup>14</sup> Social workers may play all of these roles in different contexts and at different times in their career; the roles are as follows:

**Caseworker:** who look after the issues of individual, it is to help every problematic person in a holistic way. Case work

is about to addresses the personal issues of the every individual, who seek help from case worker and solve them in a professional manner.

**Group Worker:** he looks after the treatment and fulfilling the psychosocial needs of the problematic groups of the community. Constitutes Teams, Committees, and invite delegates to fulfill the tasks of psychosocial needs of group members. He tries to develop leadership quality; increase awareness levels of group members on varies issues, and educate them for sustainable development.

**Community Organizer:** major role of social worker in community development begins with the organising community on varies social issues. Initially it is all about (Murry G. Ross 1955) bring out the match between societal needs or objectives and resources available to deal with those needs. Doing so, it extends and develops cooperative and collaborative attitudes and practices in the community<sup>3</sup>. Further community organizer must concentrate on developing skills on interesting profession of the members and create the political awareness among them, thereby community members will be more strengthen and they leads in to individual and community development.

**Need Analyzer:** in order to fulfill the societal needs, scientific need analysis must be undertake, by which needs to be priorities. Therefore social workers analyses the needs of the community with the help of community members and priorities them. Various client groups, NGO s govt officials of the community take active part in the process of need analysis and ideas of member to be incorporate with the proposals of needs of the community.

**Project manager:** Project or Programme sanctioned for community benefit is always headed by the professional social workers. Social worker have vital role in the need analysis, implement and manage the project, as they trained in preparing and administrate projects and they know the every pulse of the individual, group and community. Active participation with the various groups of the communities they can contribute extremely well for community development.

**Facilitator:** Social worker facilitate with the various benefits provided by the government, NGOs, international agencies like WHO, UNICEF, WTO, UNO, etc to the poor, socially excluded, disadvantaged or disempowered individuals and groups and marginalized sections of the society.

**Middle manager:** who help the community members to take the services from government; especially he is middle manager in arranging social security programmes, general insurances and health insurances provided to various beneficiary of the society. He is the true middle manager between employer and employee in collective bargaining and in to get sanction with the various benefits from employer in the view of labor welfare.

**Counselor:** every individual of the society having unique character in nature, therefor individualizing the people and fulfilling their needs is the biggest task before social workers. Meaningful and scientific interaction between social worker and every individuals of the society is expected in the preview of counseling, which is the only solution to address the issues of community members also individuals whose behavior is problematic. Such effort helps to improve tolerance among all and it leads in to community development.

**Role in Grama Sabha:** Grama sabha is also another means

of people participation and community development. (CUD 2014) 83.55% of the respondents are aware about rural development schemes such as; NREGP, GANGA KALYAN YOJANA, and ASHRAYA YOJANA etc, higher level of education, good economic background and interest of people appear to be the causes of their high level of awareness<sup>4</sup>. Therefore social worker must take active participation in Grama Sabha and aware community members about facilities made for individuals and community. (Dhavaleshwar C U, B. C. C. 2012) An excellent aspect of panchayat raj institution is that it has made provision for reservation for women in panchayat it leads for another face of development<sup>5</sup>.

**Researcher:** social worker takes the scientific investigation of the social and individual issues. Every community (Tribal, Rural, Urban) have its own issues which are the major obstacles of the development, scientific as well as emotional investigation by the social worker may help every, individual groups community and forecasted community development may possible.

### Community and Community Social Work

Community social work signifies ‘the practice of professional social work with communities as target population or setting for interventions’. The philosophy and practice of community social work drew from pluralist community work ideas of working in small areas called ‘patches’, and from the skills acquired through working with informal networks (Barclay, 1982; Hardley *et al.*, 1987 as cited by Popple, 1995) <sup>[4]</sup>. Smale and Tuson (1990) argue that community social work can be a particularly relevant way of organizing social services to provide community care services (Coulshed and Orme, 2006) <sup>[5]</sup>. The emphasis on the community rather than the individual is considered as one of the values of community social work. Its approach is devolving power to local communities and using workers with a detailed knowledge of the local area to enable local communities to take part in the caring process (Glasby, 2005) <sup>[6]</sup>. True community social work approach is based on the needs of the community and on the empowerment of its members. Community social work aims to develop a wide range of methods of intervention which are responsive to community needs. It seeks to develop more local participation in determining the nature and style of provision of social work services for the community. According to Bennet (1986), working in harmony with both formal and informal social networks in communities; focus on the type and nature of relationships between individuals, families, organizations and groups and the community; and recognition that the bulk of care, supervision, and control in the community is undertaken by members of the community are the key components of community social work. (Watts in Lishman, 1991) <sup>[7]</sup>. Community social work focuses on the inter-relationship with and support for formal and informal networks in communities (Holiček and Baldwin in Leskošek, 2009) <sup>[8]</sup> and on the needs of small communities; and seeks to engage those communities in providing locally responsive services that meet identified needs (Payne, 2005) <sup>[9]</sup>. It involves the dialogue concerned with shaping and amending services in response to the needs and growth of communities (Hadley *et al.*, 1987) <sup>[10]</sup>; and understanding the power dynamics and social relations that govern the relationships between various structures and diverse communities. Community social workers help communities

function, through developing community awareness and building community capacity. (Canadian Association of Social Workers) <sup>[11]</sup>. Asset driven community social work was conceptualized as being an integral part of community capacity enhancement (Delgado and Humm- Delgado, 2013) <sup>[13]</sup>. The organizational features of community social work practice include an emphasis on the importance of working with people in their informal networks and the empowerment of individuals and communities (Hadley and Leidy, 1996) <sup>[12]</sup>. (The ‘Community’ in ‘Community Social Work’)

### Conclusion

Social work education and profession have greater responsibility in the process of community development. Hand by hand support of education and field practice can contribute for the welfare of the various sections of the society. Therefore there is need of well qualified, practice oriented and committed social workers, they can work for improve the socio- economic status, and quality of life for community members. Communities are the context for community social work and community social work recognizes the diversity of communities. So, understanding different perspectives and dimensions of community is significant for effective community social work practice.

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