

Some Prominent Examples of Social Action ✓

The following are some of the prominent and everlasting examples of social action:

- Black People's Movement for civil and political rights in the United States of America (USA), 18th & 19th century and now we have the example of Mr. Barack Obama a black person as President of USA.
- Ali Garh University of sub-continent (1875).
- Feminist Movement of 1960s/70s.
- Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) 1972, a registered trade union in India.
- The National Movement of Street Children (1985), a voluntary NGO in Brazil.
- Shaukat Khanam Memorial Cancer Hospital (1994), Pakistan.
- Women Protection Bill (2006), which brings changes in Hudood Ordinance of Pakistan.
- Lawyer's Movement to restore the Judiciary and remove the dictator regime in 2007-2009, Pakistan.
- Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act (2010), Pakistan.
- Amendments made in Section 509 of Pakistan Penal Code which deals with Sexual Harassment at public places (2010), Pakistan.

Uses of Social Action in Social Work

i. Removal of Social Problems

The primary aim of social action is to solve the social problems. From this point of view, there is large scope for social action in Pakistani society which is confronted by many social problems like sectarianism, violence, prevalence of women and child labour etc. These problems should be solved in accordance to democratic ideals and actions.

ii. Solution of Individual and Family Problems

The problems with regards to individual and family needs top priority. In this direction efforts are being made at the public and private level. These problems can be solved with the help of social action.

iii. Spread of Democratic Values

Social work is based on the democratic ideals. Justice, equality and liberty are its main pillars. In practice, these ideals should be available to every citizen. Therefore, in order to accomplish these democratic ideals, rapid changes in the present social structure are inevitable. For this purpose, social action can be used as a base.

iv. Encouragement to Organizational Function

Social Action is a process having various forms and as well as various modes of execution. Further, social process could be integrative or disintegrative. Therefore, with the help of integrative social process, the speed of social action can be increased and sustained.

v. Social Reform

With the help of social action, we can encourage the process of social reform. It indirectly brings improvement in social conditions. There is much pathology which emerges due to general economic conditions, can be solved with the help of social action.

The Intrigue of Social Action

Social action is intriguing for a variety of reasons that are as follows:

a. Real people, real actions and real causes

Social action involves real people engaging in real actions on behalf of real causes, often doing so over extended periods of time and at some personal cost and with some sacrifice.

b. Bridge between individual and collective concerns

Social action represents a bridge between individual and collective concerns, a way for people to join their own interests with the interests of other people, to bond with their communities, and to become engaged with the larger society. As such, social action provides a real world laboratory for asking and answering questions about when and why people act for the good of others and for the benefit of society.

c. No laws mandate social action

Social action is intriguing for another reason. For, as much as social action is highly valued (after all, it is rather hard to disagree with the idea of making the world a better place), there are no laws that mandate social action, no rules or commandments that dictate that one must be a volunteer, that one must donate to charity, or even that one must vote. Rather, when people become involved in social action, they do so because they choose to do so and because they want to do so. As such, social action provides opportunities to understand the psychology of volitional phenomena, undertaken on the initiative of individuals and groups without the requirement or the obligation to become involved.

d. Dual identities

Social action is both an individual phenomenon in that it involves the actions of individuals, reflecting their own values, motives and personalities and a social phenomenon in that it often is engaged in by groups of people who band together to perform activities intended to serve a collective good.