

Importance of Economics For Social Worker

The economic knowledge is very essential for social workers as they perform multiple tasks for the help of individual, groups and communities to fulfill their needs and the solution of their socio-economic problems. Social life of every individual is deeply linked with economic conditions. So for the solution of socio-economic problems, a social worker must be well equipped with the basic knowledge of Economics.

These are some of the definitions of economics by popular economists which prove the importance of economics for social workers.

Prof. Robins: “Economics is the science which studies the human behavior as a relationship between multiple ends and scarce means”.

Paul A Samuelson: “Economics is the study of how societies use scarce resources to produce valuable commodities and distribute them among different groups”.

Both the definitions describe that there are many needs to be fulfilled within the limits resources. Social work also studies the resources potential of the people while working for the solution of their problems.

These are some points indicating the importance of economics for social worker:

1. Study of Resources and Utilization

Economics helps social workers to study the economic resources of client or community and after having the proper knowledge of resources, social workers are in good position to guide client or community for utilization of those resources in problem solution.

2. Community Development

Marshall says, “Economics is a science of material welfare”. The main objective of community development worker is total development of community. Total development means equal enhancement of both the social as well as economic aspects of the community. Through the help of economic knowledge social workers can do this.

3. Industrial Economics

There are always many conflicts between management and labor class in every industry. A social worker having the knowledge of economics can understand and resolve those conflicts in very positive and peaceful way. Social worker with the knowledge of economics can better protect the rights of laborers and help them in the formation of legal unions which deal such type of problems.

4. Study of Socio-economic Factors

As both social and economic factors go side by side for the overall development. So social worker has to get the knowledge of basic economic theories for planning and implementation of socio-economic projects in the community.

5. Improvement in Production and Distribution

A social worker is in good position to help the people to learn the principles of business organizations. They will be able to plan a business well and can tackle the problems of production and marketing more successfully.

6. Development of Small Working Units

Social worker well equipped with the knowledge of economics is in position to guide the people who are interested in starting cottage industries in rural and urban communities. Social worker guide them about raw material, market conditions, what type of commodities are of much demand etc...

7. Economic Planning

Having economic knowledge the social worker can make useful suggestions in the planning year. He can advise the organization,, institution or govt. how to plan keeping in view economic situation and problems of local people. Social worker can foresees the impact of planning on the social situation of local people.

8. Economic Alternatives

Social worker can suggest easily the economic alternatives to people if they are in need for it. In case of barren lands not fit for farming, he can advise the farmers to utilize that land resources in thee other way by shifting it fish form or poultry form.

9. Market Information

Social worker can inform and guide people about the economic realities of market. What are the ups and downs of prices means and why? What type of production should be launched in the market, the knowledge of economics guides social worker.

10. Economic Information for Community

In order to utilize and mobilize properly the resources of the community for the betterment of the local people, the worker must have some basic knowledge of economics. Why it is sometime hard to find a job? Why do people worry about the budget given by thee govt.? What is demand and what is supply? Social worker can satisfy these questions at community level.

11. To Avoid Overlapping

The social worker can help the people in developing different projects. For example, if in a community two vocational training institutions have been established, it is advisable to close down one because duplication of such activity will not be beneficial for community.

12. After Effects of Rapid Economic Development

Rapid economic development i.e. industrialization create many social problems like pollution, breakage of joint family system and busy life schedule. It disturbs the social set up. To deal with this situation, social worker must know the economic process.

13. Fixing up the Priorities

Community choices between different goods and services are limited by the amount of resources. Community people have to choose between necessities and luxuries, between public and private goods or between consumption and investment. Social worker helps the community in fixing their priorities.

14. Link Between National and Local Level

The social worker becomes a link between national and local levels. At one have social worker conveys socio-economic aspirations of the local people to the higher authorities at national level whereas the national policies formulated at national level are conveyed to local people.