

## **Scope of Social Work**

Every profession has some specific areas of working which involve professionals to serve and continue their profession. Social work practices carry various kinds of services through its particular methods and its major aim is to solve the psycho-social problems of individuals, groups and communities. Scope of social work is gradually expanding. It has now local, national and international nature in scope. Its methodology is useful in solving the human problems of the unhappy. In the present society, social work provides many services for the people, especially children, women, disabled, handicapped, destitute and dependents. The various programs of social work are carried out through the following services.

### **Public assistance:**

Public assistance is kind of help which is provided by the government institutions in accordance to economic and social needs of the applicant. It depends upon certain conditions and legalities. Therefore public assistance is given on the basis of means test. Government institutions have some ways and to assess the social and economic conditions of needy people. In some countries, certain amount of public assistance is given to old, blind, disabled and destitute persons. Some times, institutional care is also provided to the needy persons which include centers for women, children and old people. All these services are included in scope of social work profession.

### **Social insurance:**

Like public assistance, social insurance also covers certain contingencies such as old-age, unemployment, industrial accidents and occupational diseases. There is no test or verification needs in this kind of assistance. Benefits are granted to only those persons who pay a certain amount of contribution. It is partially given by the state. In its practical shape, social insurance covers certain risks such as medical care and in times of illness, medical care and such allowance during employment, injury, pension in old-age after retirement, cash allowance to wife and children or dependent in case of death and allowances during the period of employment. Under social insurance, the benefits of applicant are pre-determined. They are based on legal provisions.

**Family services:**

Family represents both an institution as well as an association. It is the oldest as well as durable among all social institutions. As a primary group, the family is the first and most universal of all forms of associations. Social work renders a great role in the sphere of family organization. It gives assistance and counseling towards family and individual relations, marriage, health and economic problems. In this field, the social worker bears the responsibility of establishing harmonious relationship between the individual and his family. Thus, by the way of assistance and advice, the social worker has to play a very important role in the field of family organization.

**Child welfare services:**

Social workers also provide many welfare services for children. These include residential institutions for the care, protection, education and rehabilitation of socially handicapped children i.e orphans, destitute. Social work is playing a great to deal with serious problem of child labor. We can see many examples of child welfare in private and public sector i.e. Child Protection Bureau, school social work, non formal and formal education centers for children.

**Welfare services for women:**

Under these services, residential institutions and reception centers are established for the care and protection, training and rehabilitation of destitute women and those in distress and rescued women. Further, women welfare services also include maternity centers, hostels for working women and family counseling agencies. Social work professionals work in different women welfare institutions by using their knowledge and skills.

**Welfare services for the handicapped:**

Social workers also provide their services for persons with different types of disabilities at different levels. These services include institutions for the care and rehabilitation of physically and mentally handicapped, hostels for the working handicapped, small production units for the handicapped, special schools for mentally retarded. In Pakistan, social case workers are appointed to assist handicapped and their family members for in case of any difficulties and for their rehabilitation.

**Community development and welfare services:**

Many problems exist in both rural and urban areas of almost all developing and underdeveloped countries. In such type of communities, there is need of social work services. The community welfare services include establishment of urban services, community services, education services, health facilities, sanitation and community awareness. In Pakistan, urban community development projects and rural community development projects are examples of provision of welfare services in community. Many government institutions and NGOs are providing development and welfare services for needy communities.

**Medical social work:**

Under the medical social work, welfare services are provided to patients in hospitals and medical institutions. Medical social workers help in providing such services to their families in clinics, hospitals and other health care centers. These workers assist doctors by providing information about the social and economic background of patient. They reduce worries of patients through counseling and work as liaison between doctor and patient. Many social workers are specialized in a particular type area. These includes child care, the care of dying patients and counseling, victims suffering from certain diseases such as a cancer or kidney failure etc.

**Employment service:**

Social work also works for unemployed persons and adjustment of persons on specialized places suitable according to their qualifications. This kind of services include, placement of workers looking for jobs, assistance to industry and agriculture in finding qualified workers, vocational guidance, labor protection and safety education and services in vocational rehabilitation.

**Correctional services:**

Social work is also very helpful in the provision of probation services in juvenile and criminal courts. We can see the examples of case work and group work in detention homes and prisons. Community services are also provided for the prevention of delinquency. Social welfare officers have been appointed in District Jail Bahawalpur and Borstal Jail Bahawalpur for counseling and rehabilitation of criminals.

**International social services:**

Social work is also international in scope; at the international level it includes the direction, supervision and administration of welfare services. The organizations providing social services at the international level are, WHO, International Federation of Social Workers , International Labor Organization, the International Red Cross Committee and UNICEF etc.

**Other scopes**

- Addiction Treatment
- Child abuse, adoption & welfare
- Crisis Intervention
- Disaster relief
- Domestic Relief
- Domestic Violence
- HIV/AIDS
- Military social work
- Industrial development