

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL WORK

Edited by

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Prof. Sushma Batra, MSW, M.Phil, Ph.D., has more than 35 years of teaching experience in Department of Social Work, University of Delhi. Apart from this, she has been pursuing her special areas of interest to work with older persons and persons with disability over the years. She had guided number of research scholars in pursuing their research work as part of M.Phil, Ph.D. Programme on various issues related to social work discipline. She was the Honorary Director of Women Studies and Development Centre of University of Delhi, Head of the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, Honorary Director of Utthan, and Extension Project of Centre for Child and Adolescent Well-Being of the Department. She has authored many books on various issues relating to social work and has published many articles in reputed journals.

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Preface

The book "Fundamentals of Social Work" provides an overview of various basic aspects of social work profession. The book has been divided in two parts. Part one is comprised of nine chapters and part two also includes eight chapters.

Part One, introduces the reader with the basic concepts in social work, social work education and its relation with other disciplines; theories in social work; methods recognized in social work; roles and functions of a professional social worker, and genesis of social work education as a discipline in India and other parts of the world. It also covers attributes and skills required to be a professional social worker.

Nita Kumari has authored first chapter of this book titled "Introduction to Social Work". The chapter introduces the reader with defining social work profession and its mission. It gives brief introduction on code of ethics—values and principles. The chapter also provides a brief description on the scope of social work profession, roles of a professional worker and methods of working with people and communities.

Puneet Kumar Ojha has contributed a chapter titled "Social Work and Its Relationship to Other Disciplines". The chapter introduces the young readers the basics of social work and its relation with other disciplines such as medicine, psychology, history, sociology, public administration, law and economics. Social work discipline draws its knowledge base from various disciplines of social and biological sciences to understand various aspects of human life and redress complex human problems.

Sayantani Guin traces the evolution of social work practice in India from charity approach to human rights approach in her chapter titled "Social Work in India: From Charity to Human

The concept of international social work was first used by George Warren in 1943 to describe social work practice in agencies that were engaged in organised international efforts. Sanders (1984) and Sanders and Pedersen (1984) defined international social work as a distinct field of practice and stressed the importance of specific skills and knowledge to enable social workers to work in international agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross. Over time, the term international social work also came to encompass domestic social work practice with immigrants and refugees. Healy (2001) does not view international social work practice as a field, but uses the term international action and makes the case that due to increased global interdependence, both local social workers and domestic human service agencies have greater opportunities and even a responsibility to engage in international activities. The use of the term international action as the basis of the definition of international social work has led to four practice categories:

- *Internationally related domestic practice and advocacy*: It includes working with the refugees and immigrants, international populations, international adoptions, and so forth.
- *Professional exchange*: It involves communication of knowledge and sharing of experiences.
- *International practice*: It involves direct work in international agencies, such as relief and disaster work.
- *International policy development and advocacy*: It involves the formulation of policy positions and actions to resolve global social problems.

International Social Work includes the exchanges of ideas by social workers at international meetings as well as inter-country work, intergovernmental work, and relief work. International Social Work contains four main types of activities: (a) international social case work; (b) international assistance, public and private, to disaster or war sufferers and distressed minority groups; (c) international conferences on social work; and (d) international cooperation by governments and private bodies through the medium of the league, in combatting disease and securing social and political peace and harmony throughout the world (Warren, 1939).

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International Social Work

Manju Goel

Introduction

Social Work is an applied profession that uses knowledge to effect change at all levels, i.e. individual, institutional, and societal. Social work practice and policy are increasingly shaped by global phenomena, and there are many opportunities for social work to make an impact on the world level. Therefore, a dynamic, action-oriented conceptualization of international social work is required. Social workers can benefit from knowing how the issues in their state are played out in other states. There is so much to learn of innovative practices and of possible solutions to social problems that never would have been imagined without an international exchange of information. International Social Work is generally understood to encompass global and policy issues, comparative social policy, international professional organisations, social work practice focused on development of human rights, or migration, especially that in international agencies. International social work practice is also specific to the human rights of vulnerable populations such as racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities, poverty, homelessness, hunger, migration, child welfare policies, geriatric care, youth welfare, family welfare, women empowerment, HIV/AIDS prevention, substance abuse treatment, income maintenance and support programmes, services to people with disabilities, probation and correctional social work, community organizing and development, family disintegration, juvenile delinquency, and health care provisions.