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# SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN INDIA : EMERGING TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

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### Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Social Work,

Morane, Tal.&Dist.Dhule (Maharashtra)

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# INTEGRATED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AS A NEED OF TIME

**P. M. Shahapurkar**
Assist. Professor

College of Social Work,
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada
University, Aurangabad

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Social Work Profession has been constantly evolving and updating its relevance with periods. It started as charity activity and in present era its mode is Sustainable Development. It believes making needy or problematic person self-dependent and self-reliant. When it was new profession, Herbert Stroup defined Social Work as "An art of bringing various resources to fulfil individual, group and community needs by the application of a scientific method of helping the people to help themselves". Now many decades have passed after accepting social work as profession.

Nowadays, the profession of social work is known for its applicability in diverse fields. The innovativeness in field of practice made this profession to be accepted as the need of the hour. It has uniqueness in its areas of intervention, which extends from individual intervention, which extends from individual context to family, groups, community and

area for social work practice which involves the utilization of social work methods, tools and techniques , professions collaboratively to help individuals in need or suffering from problems.

As divergent as these problems and the people affected are, the means of resolving these problems by using traditional methods remains exclusive, hence method of intervention is needed to change its applicability. So Integrated Social Work Practice is need of present time.

All are familiar with the word 'Integrated' ,as it has been used earlier in Indian context ,particularly in government programmes viz., Integrated Rural Development Programme- IRDP & Integrated Child Development Scheme-ICDS. So every one knows that many dimensions of development are taken in consideration (i.e. it is integration of number of possible ways, manpower, clients, targets etc) in these government launched programme/Scheme. It is the focus to change the different parts into a new whole. Integration is combining two or more things together. After 1990 integrated approach was accepted n social work widely. Integration combines here clients, professions, methods, areas/locality to provide qualitative services to stakeholders. Multi-speciality hospitals ,molls are examples of integration. Likewise this approach strengthens Social Work profession. It is empowerment of needy or problematic persons. Empowerment is process of offering power to needy persons. Integrated Social Work Practice is thus defined as "An art of bringing various resources to fulfil needs of individual

2. It should be carried out for problem solution, but its direction should be towards problem prevention.

3. Social work is basically for achieving development, but it should move towards Social Justice.

4. It should be started from Distribution of services to Capacity Building.

5. Initially Social worker should pay attention towards Case Work but it is needed to organize people.

6. Social Worker must go from micro to macro level.

7. Its direction should be from traditional leadership to empowerment of community

8. It should take support of government machinery, but it should promote voluntary action in community.

9. Its direction should be from educating, helping people to organizing people.

10. Social work must move from social welfare to social change.

Thus Integrated Social Work Practice empowers person to deal with problem or need. It has wider scope to deal with problems as its target points are really broader.

Collaborative services, professionals, skills have now proved their requirement for betterment as Integrated Social Work Practice-
· combines all the services together
· responds to the changing needs of clients and society.
· solves the problem on service delivery.
· is more flexible in allocation of resources (man power, fund, spaces, services) to deal with different needs in the communities

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· develops more network between other professionals or specialists (increase knowledge and skills)

· has more insights in services providing or other areas from joining together with other services' workers

· has more mutual supports between workers

· understands better the needs and services

· is easy for managing and supervise

· has cost effectiveness

· offers easily accessible services to users

· avoids duplication of services or corrects service gaps occurred .

· promotes early intervention, identifies risk at the level of intervention

· increases coordination among workers to exchange their knowledge and skills

· reduces overlapping services

· increases accountability under one management

· improves services implementation and corrects delay mechanism

· creates Pressure increase to complete work

· increases the quality of services as there are different professionals involved in the treatment or services provision

· is more flexible to fulfill service users different needs

· keeps worker updating their skills and knowledge (self-improve) in order to fulfill the need

· utilizes the strengths among different agencies

## The Rationale of Integrated Social Work Practice

This method of social work provides clients with more convenient access to a wide range of services (e.g. One-Window service) and enables more flexible and cost-effective use of available resources. It also utilises multi-content and multi-level approach to meet the needs of clients. Due to the Integration, service users do not need to go to other agencies to obtain service, but can obtain different services in an integrated centre, so it is more convenient and less time-consuming to seek for services. The access of resources is quick.

Profession-integration enhances the communication and co-operation among different professions, so social workers may help to identify these professions and related resources quickly.

e.g. SETU, Multi-speciality Hospitals where within one locality, individual can meet different agencies or workers together.

Social Worker should employ himself or herself to innovate new strategies by using integrated practice in social work. It will be time worthy as though there are many problems remedial measures are also wide in number. Our society is rich with human and natural resources. By integrating knowledge, skills social work profession can be made enriched. Integration of services is one formula to resolve problems like poverty, farmers suicides, unemployment etc. e.g.

1. Social-tourism makes available resources to need persons/service users.

2. Networking is one type of Integration. If mutual networking between farmers of Maharashtra and Urban dwellers is formed, they can assist each other to deal problems. i.e. if

So social workers have to think now differently for human and resource mobilisation with the help of integrated social work practice.

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## Social Reformers Contribution and Social Work Profession

Gopal Nimbalkar
Dr. B. A. C.S.W. Morane, Dhule

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Social work profession is new emerging profession in the present era. It is basically evolved in the 19th century in western country. We all are known about the industrial revolution, which has been taken place in 18th century in western countries and with this development many problems also emerged in human society. This was directly affected on human health, family relation and social cohesion etc. The situation itself compel to Govt. and as well as to voluntary organizations to have and provide psychological counseling and other services to people who are individually not able to perform their role and responsibilities, thus, the social work profession emerged though the need of society. Social reform means who advocates reform or favours to abolishing bad traditions and systems in the society. Social reform process is started with the existence of human society. But it is came into focus in the 19th century in all over the world. The social awaking process is started first in western country and then its followed by other parts of world. In concerning to India the social reform movement geared up in the 19th century. A social reform movement is a kind of social movement that aims to make gradual change or change in