DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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MSW 1st SEMESTER

MODEL ANSWER

MS-103: Social Work Profession: History, Philosophy and Fields

Paper Code: AU-6474

Max. Marks: 75

Section- A

- **OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS ANSWER:**   10 x 2 = 20

- B

- C

- True

- B

- C

- A

- B

- C

- A

- True

2. Discuss the values of social work

Ans. **Basic social work values:**

- **Service:** Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems. Social workers elevate service to others above self-interest. Social workers

draw on their knowledge, values, and skills to help people in need and to address social problems. Social workers are encouraged to volunteer some portion of their professional skills with no expectation of significant financial return (pro bono service).

- **Social Justice:** Social workers challenge social injustice. Social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people. Social workers' social change efforts are focused primarily on issues of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and other forms of social injustice. These activities seek to promote sensitivity to and knowledge about oppression and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers strive to ensure access to needed information, services, and resources; equality of opportunity; and meaningful participation in decision making for all people.

- **Dignity and Worth of the Person:** Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person. Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers promote clients' socially responsible self-determination. Social workers seek to enhance clients' capacity and opportunity to change and to address their own needs. Social workers are cognizant of their dual responsibility to clients and to the broader society. They seek to resolve conflicts between clients' interests and the broader society's interests in a socially responsible manner consistent with the values, ethical principles, and ethical standards of the profession.

- **Importance of Human Relationships:** Social workers recognize the central importance of human relationships. Social workers understand that relationships between and among people are an important vehicle for change. Social workers engage people as partners in the helping process. Social workers seek to strengthen relationships among people in a purposeful effort to promote, restore, maintain, and enhance the well-being of individuals, families, social groups, organizations, and communities.

- **Integrity:** Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner. Social workers are continually aware of the profession's mission, values, ethical principles, and ethical standards and practice in a manner consistent with them. Social workers act honestly and responsibly and promote ethical practices on the part of the organizations with which they are affiliated.

- **Competence:** Social workers practice within their areas of competence, develop and enhance their professional expertise. Social workers continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice. Social workers should aspire to contribute to the knowledge base of the profession.

3. What are the skills required from a social worker?
Ans. Some of the Social Work Skills are:

- Engagement
- Assessment
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation
- Termination
- Listening/attending skills: clarifying, paraphrasing, summarizing, reframing, non-verbal attending
- Communication skills
- Empathy
- Critical thinking
- Counseling/clinical diagnosis/clinical interventions
- Report writing and documentation
- Leadership
- Administrative skills
- Research, including practice evaluation
- Analysis of and application of practice research to work
- Policy practice
- Professional and effective use of self
- Management of professional relationships
- Community assessment, planning, and development
- Management of competing needs and interests in rural settings
- Effective use of supervision and consultation

4. Explain the generic principles of social work.
Ans. Generic principles of social work are:
- Principle of acceptance
- Principle of Individualization
- Principle of communication
- Principle of non judgmental attitude
- Principle of self determination
- Principle of controlled emotional involvement

- Principle of conscious use of self

(Explain in detail all of it)

5. What is the difference between social welfare and social service?
Ans. Social Welfare is the organized system of the social services and institutions designed to aid individuals and groups to attain satisfying standards of life and health. It aims at personal and social relationships which permits individuals the development of their full capacities and the promotion of their well being in harmony with the needs of community. Whereas according to Prof. Titmus social services are all those services which are provided collectively to meet certain socially recognized goals. Social service is direct concern of general well being of individuals.

Social welfare is more specialized work for the benefit of the weaker and vulnerable section of our society and includes social services for women, children, elderly, differently- able etc. Whereas social service are generally concern of government, can also be provided voluntary.

6. Explain feminist theory.
Ans. Definition: Feminist theory, or feminism, is support of equality for women and men. Although all feminists strive for gender equality, there are various ways to approach this theory, including liberal feminism, socialist feminism, and finally radical feminism. The basic feminist ideas and various approaches to achieving gender equality.

Basic Feminist Ideas: People who consider themselves feminist (both male and female) disagree on many things. That being said, most feminist agree on five basic principles:

- Feminists believe in **working to increase equality**. Feminist thought links ideas to action, insisting we should push for change toward gender equality (and not just talk about it).

- Feminists also believe in **expanding human choice**, the idea that both men and women should be able to develop their human traits, even if those go against the status quo. If a woman wants to be a mechanic, she should have every right and opportunity to do so.

- Another feminist principle, **eliminating gender stratification**, proposes that laws and cultural norms that limit the income, educational, and job opportunities for women should be opposed.

- The final two principles are fairly straightforward: **ending sexual violence** and **promoting sexual freedom** - that women should have control over their sexuality and reproduction.

Types of Feminism

- **Liberal Feminism:** is rooted in classic liberal thinking that individuals should be free to develop their own talents and pursue their own interests. This approach sees gender inequalities as rooted in the attitudes of our social and cultural institutions. Liberal feminists do not see women's equality as requiring a reorganization of society, but they do seek to expand the rights and opportunities of women.
- **Materialistic feminism**
- **Ecological feminism**
- **Cultural feminism etc.**

7. Throw light on assumptions of social work.
Ans. Social work is built on a number of fundamental assumptions that help shape the direction and course of the field. Many people choose to enter social work because they have deep personal beliefs and feelings that resonate with these assumptions. As a social worker who agrees with these core values and beliefs, you'll make an important contribution to the betterment of the lives of individuals, groups and society as a whole.

Concept of Self-Actualization: One of the main assumptions of working as a social worker is the idea that the inherent purpose of human existence is self-actualization. You believe that everyone has the right to achieve their highest potential, regardless of their background or class. You also believe that one of the key goals of social work is to help your clients meet their inner potential as much as is possible in the context of their current situations. You realize that there are certain cultural, societal, psychological and biological roadblocks that may impede this process, and you work to help your clients remove these blocks.

Importance of Social Relationships: Another underlying assumption of social work is the importance of human relationships. Social workers realize that life takes place in the greater context of society, and take societal and interpersonal factors into account when working with their clients. According to Carolyn Campbell, impact of the social identities, meaning race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, and class, of your clients, and work to understand the importance of society and individual relationships on your client's current circumstances and problems.

Right to Dignity: An essential assumption of social work is that everyone has the right to dignity, independence and respect. Clients have right to make their own decisions and avoid allowing your own personal prejudices and biases interfere with your client's right to self-determination. Additionally, you treat your clients with respect and consider the multicultural impacts that may play a role when interacting with clients of a different background than your own.

Human Behavior is Understandable: Human behavior is understandable, we realize that everyone has underlying motives and reasons for the way they act and interact, and that human behavior is not based on randomness -- even though it might seem that way at times. Human behavior, theories of personality and impact of social interaction to understand your clients' motivations and to help them to the most beneficial extent possible.

The underlying assumptions of social work (Skidmore, 1997) are:

1. Social work is a social science.
2. Social work as a profession came into being and continues to develop because it meets human needs and aspirations recognized by society.
3. Social work practice takes its values from those held by the society of which it is a part of. However, its values are not necessarily or altogether those universally or predominantly held or practiced by society.
4. The scientific base of social work consists of three types of knowledge: tested, hypothetical and assumptive knowledge.
5. The knowledge needed for social work practice is determined by its goals and functions, and the problems it seeks to solve.
6. The internalization of professional knowledge and values is a vital characteristic of the professional social worker since he is the instrument of professional help.

8. Explain 4 P?
Ans. Perlman's (1957) 4 Ps (person, problem, place, and process) have proven useful to social workers as a way of organizing their thoughts about a client, his or her situation, and the agency context of social work intervention. The 4 Ps is:
1. Problem
- What is the nature of the client's problem or concern? Its cause, intensity, frequency, and duration?
- How does the client define or describe it? How do others who know the client define it? How does the worker define it?
- Can this problem or situation be changed? What aspects of the problem can feasibly be addressed in a change effort by the worker and client?
- How effective have previous efforts by the client, agency, or worker been in dealing with this problem or concern?
- Is the problem or situation an emergency that requires a rapid response?

- What would the consequences be if the worker or agency does nothing for or with the client?

2. Person
- How are the various dimensions of the whole person (e.g., physical, emotional social, economic, and spiritual) related to or affected by the client's problem, concern, or situation?
- What client strengths or assets can be used as a foundation on which to build an effective intervention plan and change process?
- How might the client's usual ways of thinking and behaving become barriers to dealing effectively with the problem or concern?

3. Place
- What meaning does the client assign to his or her involvement with the agency (e.g., hopefulness, stigma, fear, humiliation, etc.)?
- Can the agency provide the services needed by the client? If not, is referral to another agency likely to be effective?
- Are the agency's own procedures, policies, or methods somehow contributing to the client's problems?

4. Process
- What type of helping approach, method, or technique is the client likely to find acceptable?
- What approach, method, or technique is likely to be effective?
- How will the requirements of the helping process (time, fees, scheduling, etc.) affect the client's current roles and responsibilities?

III-LONG ANSWERS QUESTIONS: (Attempt any Two)   **10x2 = 20**

- Trace the historical evolution of social work in UK?

Ans. A Brief Overview of evolution of Social Work in UK

AD 1300–1562:   Large tracts of English land were set aside for sheep farming to produce wool. This dislocated many people who became an underclass of dispossessed poor wandering the countryside seeking work, settlement, and charity. A population increase of 25% and a series of famines led to increased poverty, which could not be dealt with using the old system of individual charity.

1563–1601: In an attempt to provide a system of assistance to a growing number of impoverished citizens and because of concern that civil disobedience and chaos would result in civic deterioration, the English Poor Laws of 1563, 1572, 1576, 1597, and 1601 were created. In 1563 the poor were categorized for the first time into deserving (the elderly and the very young, the infirm, and families who occasionally found themselves in financial difficulties due to a change in circumstance), who were considered deserving of social support, and the undeserving (those who often turned to crime to make a living, such as Highway men or pickpockets, migrant workers who roamed the country looking for work, and individuals who begged for a living), who were to be treated harshly. The act of 1572 introduced the first compulsory local poor law tax, an important step acknowledging that alleviating poverty was the responsibility of local communities. In 1576 the concept of the Work house was born, and in 1597 the post of overseer of the poor was created.

1601–1834: During these years a system was devised and rules were developed that provided "poor relief" by local authorities and depended on legal residence in a locale with provisions to help determine whether someone would stay or leave the "protection" of the poor laws administrator. Emphasis was placed on work, apprenticeships, and other means to determine that one had become a contributing citizen. If character issues were noted that suggested a person was not deserving of help he or she could be removed from assistance.

After 1834: The poor laws went from being a local administrative responsibility to a shared one where communities could band together to provide assistance. Workhouses rather than any assistance in kind (food, shelter, clothing, and small money grants) became the primary way of assisting the poor. It was not until 1930 that the poor laws were finally abolished. The following rules and conditions were standardized by the Poor Laws of 1834: After the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act had been passed, the Poor Law Guardians had to provide accommodation for paupers. They did this by building "workhouses." The aim of the workhouse was to discourage people from claiming poor relief, and conditions were to be made as forbidding as possible. Residents of poor houses were segregated by age and gender. Married couples, even the elderly, were to be kept apart so that they could not "breed." The old, ill, insane, slightly unbalanced, and fit were kept together both day and night with no form of diversion. Inmates simply sat and did nothing if they were not working.

After 1930: Although the laws changed in England and the inhumane treatment of the poor gave way to the progressive changes in the way the society viewed poverty, many of the cruel ideas about the poor continue on in both England and America. Private groups run the hostels—including, thanks to the "charitable choice" provision in the 1996 welfare reform

act, a church-related group. They are able to provide the clearly, enunciated moral values that their residents, like most social-service clients, need to live by.

- Explain various systems in social work practice.

Ans. a. **Change agent system:** Social workers & the organisations they work in not just social workers.

b. **Client System:** People, groups, families, communities who seek help & engage with change agents, Actual clients have agreed to receive help & have engaged themselves; potential clients are those with whom the social workers are trying to engage

c. **Target System:** People whom the change agent system is trying to change to achieve its aims Client and target systems may or may not be the same

d**. Action System:** People with whom the change agent system works to achieve its aims Client, target & action systems may or may not be the same

- Write a note on following:

- Social Action: Concept of Social Action: Social action is considered an auxiliary method of professional social work. As one of the methods of working with people, it has remained a debatable issue among the social work professionals. Social action is a method of social work used for mobilizing masses in order to bring about structural changes in the social system or to prevent adverse changes. It is an organized effort to change or improve social and economic institutions. Some of the social problems like dowry system, destruction of natural resources, alcoholism, poor housing, health, etc. can be tackled through social action. Mary Richmond was the first social worker to use the word 'social action' in 1922.

She defines social action as "mass betterment through propaganda and social legislation". However, Sydney Maslin (1947) limits the scope of social action by considering it as a process of social work mainly concerned with securing legislation to meet mass problems. Baldwin broadens the scope of social action by emphasizing on bringing about structural changes in the social system through social action. Baldwin (1966) defines social action as "an organized effort to change social and economic institutions as distinguished from social work or social service, the fields which do not characteristically cover essential changes in established institutions. Social action covers movements of political reforms, industrial democracy, social legislation, racial and social justice, religious freedom and civic liberty and its techniques include propaganda, research and lobbying". In the same line Friedlander (1977) defines social action as an individual, group or community effort within the framework of social work philosophy and

practice that aims to achieve social progress, to modify social policies and to improve social legislation and health and welfare services. According to Coyle (1937) social action is the attempt to change the social environment in ways, which will make life more satisfactory. It aims to affect not individuals but social institutions, laws, customs, communities. Fitch (1940) considers social action as legally permissible action by a group (or by an individual trying to promote group action) for the purpose of furthering objectives that are both legal and socially desirable. A broad outlook has also been given by Hill (1951) who describes social action as "organised group effort to solve mass social problems or to further socially desirable objectives by attempting to influence basic social and economic conditions or practices". The objective of social action is the proper shaping and development of socio-cultural environment in which a richer and fuller life may be possible for all the citizens. Mishra (1992) has identified following goals of social action:

1) Prevention of needs;
2) Solution of mass problems;
3) Improvement in mass conditions;
4) Influencing institutions, policies and practices;
5) Introduction of new mechanisms or program;
6) Redistribution of power and resources
7) Decision-making;
8) Effect on thought and action structure; and
9) Improvement in health, education and welfare.

- **Humanitarian philosophy:** In its most general form, humanitarianism is an ethic of kindness, benevolence, and sympathy extended universally and impartially to all human beings. Humanitarianism has been an evolving concept historically but universality is a common element in its evolution. No distinction is to be made in the face of suffering or abuse on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, tribe, caste, age, religion, ability, or nationality.

Humanitarianism can also be described as the acceptance of every human being for plainly just being another human, ignoring and abolishing biased social views, prejudice, and racism in the process, if utilized individually as a practiced viewpoint, or mindset. Humanitarian philosophy is the base of social work, because it practice no discrimination on any ground, all human beings are equal, no difference on the basis of caste, creed, religion, race, gender etc.

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