

Patrician College of Arts and Science

Department of Social Work

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK IN UK

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Odd Semester

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Primitive Stage (Before 1200 A.D.)

- During this period there was nothing of social work or social welfare. If there was some problem, people believed that it was a curse from God. So they have to face the problem willingly and there is no other way to escape from it.

Christian Period (1200-1500 A.D.)

- This period had a wide effect on all over England. So many were dedicated to charity work. In the Church large number of Missionaries, Schools, Parishes, Dioceses, Hospitals and Social welfare agencies came into existence. Christian Period (1200-1500 A.D.)

Intervention of Monarchs (1500-1600A.D)

- During this period churches and charity institutions were Nationalized by the Government and all those who were unable to work and poor were maintained by these Institutions.

Pre-Modern Period (1600-1800 A.D)

- Lot of changes took place in this period. Elizabethan Poor Law came into existence in the year 1601. This was the first social legislation and under this legislation lot of provisions for social welfare were made. Some of them are as follows:-

Residence

- It provides services to the poor people who were born and brought up in a particular area. Those who have migrated were not supposed to get residence and at least three years staying in a place was necessary for getting the benefit of services.

Relatives

- If there is an earning member in a family of the destitute then he or she is not eligible for any social services because it is the duty of the relative to take care of him or her.

Able-bodied Homes

- There were some people who were physically able but they found that begging is an easy way of living. For such people, Able-Bodied or Work Homes were made and small works were given to them.

Modern Period (1800-1900 A.D)

- In this period, when the members started working for the welfare of the people, many social scientists gave their Theories.

Theories

- 1. Adam Smith Theory According to this theory the government should minimize its involvement in any field for any purpose as it will lead to much dependency.
- 2. Malthusian Theory He said that if there were lot of free services this will lead to desire for more children. So he told to stop charity work.

Post Modern Period

- Late 20th Century is known as Post Modern Period.
- It was a time of “Social Upheavals” which means a Violent or a Sudden Change.

What are Those Upheavals???

1. First World War:- 28th July 1914 to 11th
2. November 1918.
3. Second World War:- 1st September 1939 to 2nd September 1945.
4. Nazism:- Adolf Hitler, from 1933 to 1945.
5. Fascism:- Benito Mussolini from 1922 to 1943.
6. Cold War:- 1947 to 1991. It's a Political dispute where the weapons were not used.

What were the Causes?

- People were afflicted by poverty.
- People suffered from various diseases.
- Medical care was lacking.
- There was Mass Migration.
- The population of cities were increasing rapidly.

What were the Results?

1. The UK government responded by offering free treatment in Hospitals.
2. Hospital Almoners were recruited to help in the treatment of patients. (Almoners means Church officer who distributes the alms to the poor.)
3. These Almoners were regarded as social workers, and their roles began to include other social responsibilities in the following years.

- Thus Social work in the UK developed as a Philanthropic activity and became increasingly a professional service, either carried out directly by the state, or by the voluntary sector on its behalf.
- Now the State has won the right to intervene in the lives of individuals and taken complete control over how this Social work should be carried out and by whom.
- Voluntary social work agencies are also now controlled by the Government.

Conclusion

- In U K Christianity played an important role in developing this Social Work concept. Because the Motto of Christianity is to “Love your Neighbour as you love yourself”, which means to be charitable towards others. Thus today the Social Work has brought a complete change in the Western Societies and has become a Professional Service.



THANK YOU