

Social Workers - *Be proud of your Profession*

The profession of social work provides unique opportunity to the young professionals to work with people. The compassion coupled with competence of social workers makes them successful in their career. Social work is as important as science and technology and the social workers can contribute to the peace and prosperity of the society by bridging human minds.



Swami Vivekananda says: "Go from village to village, do good to the humanity and to the world at large. Go to hell yourself to buy salvation for others.... When death is so certain, it is better to die for a good cause." Helen Keller says that life is an exciting business, and most exciting when it is lived for others. What is the use of name and fame when you are not useful for the society, she adds. Social workers are involved in a profession where the input, process, and products are all

human beings and therefore, they can make a difference. They have the unique opportunity to become an integral part of the changes in the society.

Desired qualities of Social workers:

The field of social work has the blessings of great thinkers and social reformers from all over the world. While attempting to describe the qualities one should possess to succeed as a social worker, we find many of their words soothing.



The father of our nation Mahatma Gandhiji is a model for social workers. His faith moved mountains and he enjoyed every moment of his social work and millions of people both educated and common men followed his footpaths. He provides us the first vital message that whatever you do, you should do it with happiness. He says: "Service

can have no meaning unless one takes pleasure in it. When it is done for show or for fear of public opinion it stunts the man and crushes his spirit. Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is



rendered in a spirit of joy." Martin Luther King echoes Gandhiji and thundered : "Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't

have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Therefore, social workers should do their service with joy and not for anything else.

The second quality of the social worker is to develop faith that he/she can make a difference in the society. When we work with human beings, we may not be able to predict fully what types of end results would emerge but the sincere attempts with faith always yield good results. In this context, Martin Luther King says that faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. As long as the process is correct, the results are bound to be correct and therefore, social workers should proceed with faith that they can make a difference in human lives.

The third quality social workers should possess is the ability to go down to the level of people. The degrees, positions, etc., should not put a barrier between the social worker and the

people. Social workers should reach out and speak the language of the people. The great leader of South Africa Nelson Mandela says: "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language that goes to his heart." Social workers should keep this as a message for their career to succeed as they are always moving with people. Therefore, social workers should be kind hearted and soft spoken.



The fourth quality is to provide timely services, as many can't wait for too long. Mother Theresa provides an advice in this regard. She says: "It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start." Therefore, social workers should start serving people who are near them instead of waiting for someone to come from outside. We often know that delayed service is denied service and therefore, the social worker should provide service when the person is in need.



Methodology of social work

Empowering people should be the foremost aim in social work. The work should start with the feeling first. They should feel for the people and understand their needs, then start

providing assistance and simultaneously develop skills in them aiming at their total empowerment. Social workers should follow the message of Abraham Lincoln who said: "You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."



Struggles are part of Social work

Social work and struggles go together and therefore, social workers should not succumb to struggle. "Success is the ability to go from



failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm" says Sir Winston Churchill. They should keep on doing their work without worrying about results and the society will

recognise their might. Social workers should take the message of Mrs Indira Gandhi who

said: "There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition



there." Credit is temporary but the individual's ability to go with work is a permanent asset and therefore, social workers should not be bothered by petty things as long as they hold their concern for others as the top priority. Social workers should work to make an impact on the life of the individual unmindful of who takes the credit.

Work for others elevates the self

When one works for others, it elevates his/her self-esteem. "The more we take the welfare of others to heart and work for their benefit, the more benefit we derive for

ourselves. This is a fact that we can see" says Dalai Lama. By doing social work the individuals become strong human beings. Social workers



alone have not talked about social work but people of eminence from other sectors too highlight the great impact the social work has



on human life. The great Albert Einstein says: "More and more I come to value charity and love of one's fellow being above everything else..."

In summary, social workers should have faith that they can make a difference in the society. They should develop compassion and sharpen their skills. They should be kind and not disheartened by the struggles in serving people. They should keep people in front and do their work and their contribution will go in the history of the humanity. As Helen Keller said, "The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker" and the social workers should try to become that honest worker.



UDIS Report Card for July 2008

- The UDIS Forum facilitated employment for 14 persons with disabilities during the month of July 2008.
- The UDIS Forum office bearers participated and addressed in the awareness programme on disability services and rehabilitation for community workers conducted by the Department of Social Work, Saraswathy Thiyagaraja College of Arts and Science at Pollachi on 5 July 2008.
- Youth Wing for Disability Services (YWDIS) conducted an two-day intensive training



- programme on Disability Management for its volunteers on 11 and 12 July 2008 at GRD College of Science. 40 students from various colleges participated in the programme.
- The officials of the UDIS Forum oriented 40 I year MSW students of Bharathiar University on the programmes of UDIS network during their field visit on 15 July 2008 and they were motivated to involve themselves in disability services and rehabilitation.
- The UDIS Forum officials had discussions with the office bearers of the Association for the Rights of the Visually Challenged (ARVIC) and Coimbatore Association for the Deaf (CAD) on future activities to be implemented through mutual collaboration.
- The officials of the UDIS Forum had discussions with the officials of Grama Udhayam, Thirunelveli on organizing training, providing assistance and creating employment opportunities to persons with disabilities at Thirunelveli under the Training and Employment Network with Non-Governmental Organisations (TENNGO) scheme.
- Applications for scholarship under Marga Schulze Scholarship Scheme (MASS) were received from girls with visual impairment in South India for pursuing higher studies.

For more details on the activities of the UDIS Forum, log onto www.davo.in
We value your suggestions.

Do you want to write in the Enabling Voice?
Send your brief write-ups on issues relating to disability to udis@vsnl.net

For further contact :

(You and the Disabled)
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Use their Skills * Light their Lives

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