

# SOCIAL WORK WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES



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# DEFINING SOCIAL WORK

- Social work is the professional activity of helping individuals, groups or communities enhance or restore their capacity for social functioning and creating societal conditions favourable to this goal (Jurkowski et al, 2013)



# SOCIAL WORK WITH CHILDREN

- A child is a young person of either sex usually one below the age of puberty(Oxford Dictionary,2015)
- The welfare of children is primarily the responsibility of parents.However not all families are able to commit to this responsibility with reasons ranging from financial incapability,conscious neglect of child care to single parenting resulting from divorce.The state  
“offers support to families in areas such as health care,education,housing or cash benefits either universally to all families or more selectively based on criteria of deprivation or special needs“(Kirton,Derek 2009,p.1)

- Other children in some families are abused, neglected, experience domestic violence and in such cases the state “has evolved powers and duties to intervene in families when there are concerns regarding child welfare” (Kirton, Derek 2009, p.1)
- Governments in several countries have established laws, legislation and social policy to protect children. For instance the children Act 1989 is an example in the UK. “The children Act 1989 is a landmark piece of legislation that attempts to create a whole code of law about the upbringing of children” (Davey et al, 2010, p.45)

# SOCIAL WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

- A young person can be described as the time when one is young, the early part or period of life, more specifically the period from puberty till the attainment of full growth between childhood and adult age (Oxford Dictionary, 2015).
- Young people who have been at various times ignored, abused, institutionalized require the services of a social worker. Issues young people face are drug abuse, activities that end them up in juvenile or correctional facilities. Other issues social workers deal with among young people often are emotional abuse and neglect or physical abuse

- How a social worker views young people who have committed offences will contribute greatly to his or her ability to forge strong, positive and supportive working relationships with them
- social workers working with these young people should be mindful of their age and stage of emotional, physical and intellectual development of their social circumstance. social workers strive to help these young ones to change their current lifestyle of drug abuse, addiction and other negative behavioural activities.

# SOCIAL WORK WITH FAMILY

- Family, a group of people consisting of one set of parents and their children whether living together or not. In wider sense any group of people connected by blood, marriage, adoption (Oxford Dictionary, 2015)
- Families face lots of issues ranging from divorce, emotional instability to physical abuses (domestic violence) on other members of the family, unemployment, parental problems.
- Problems in the family when overlooked grows and affects the lives negatively of all the other members in the family. Social workers provide support to such families either connecting them to the available resources in the state and helping them fix their problems.



# CONCLUSION

- Social work with children, young people and their families are increasing due to the identification of more problems in the society, because society is in a constant flux it's a reflection of how social work must evolve in order to respond to new challenges and constant changes. social work is a challenging and exciting area in which to work, it requires motivation and commitment which come from personal experience as well as professional education and development.

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