

## **Historical Roots of Social Work: From Ethnogenesis to Modern Trends**

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**Abstract:** This article examines the emergence and development of social service as a social institution. Its connection with ethnogenetic problems, the actualization of individual potential and the role of social philosophy in the formation of the methodology and functions of social services is noted. The abstract also highlights the manifestation of social service in different cultures (Islamic, Christian) and its evolution from charity to commercial activity.

**Keywords:** social work, social institution, ethnogenesis, social philosophy, axiology, cultural studies.

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Social work as a social institution arose as a result of satisfying a need (demand), ensuring a meaningful course of people's lives. The history of social services as a whole is connected with ethnogenetic problems and has an immanent content. Social work acquires historical and epistemological content and is associated with the actualization of individual honour and personal potential (opportunity). At this point, "social philosophy" as a branch of science for social service performs "methodological," "epistemological" and "prognostic" functions.

All peoples and peoples of the world have gone through a rather complex ethnic process. Because each ethnic group was formed over a long historical period as a result of contact with different peoples, sometimes moving from one place to another, mixing with other ethnic groups and absorbing them or making them part of them [1]. It was during this historical period that certain aspects of social work began to take shape.

### **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

While the axiological manifestation of social service occurred in Islamic culture in examples of kindness, in Christian culture in the form of sympathy [2], at the general cultural stage it was practiced in the form of providing assistance in cases of obvious deficiencies in a person's physical, spiritual and psychological health. By the institutional stage [3], the object and subject of social work were clearly defined, legal and economic foundations were created, and the professional level of specialists was formed. However, in the commercial stage (today) it has been divided into industries, industries based on the demand and needs of those who need it, with an increased focus on quality of service. As a result, cooperation, cohesion, and the ability to create mutual understanding are established, while stereotypical relationships are followed. They are directly related to identity [4]; the structural elements of ethnoculture are embodied in such traditions, values, norms, rituals, customs, archetypes, and perform the function of ensuring cooperation in society.

Social assistance should be studied in connection with a specific historical time and the life experience of mankind. This approach by K. Lawrence means that he focused on this issue in the context of cultural studies. Because the provision of social assistance is considered a biosocial phenomenon and can be assessed at various levels of indicators. Similar to “providing social assistance”. In R. Samarov's approach to the problem from a cultural-historical point of view, special attention is paid to the national-cultural way of life associated with the formation and improvement of values, as well as the emergence and practice of traditions.

Some sources [4] trace the interpretation of the origin and development of social service in connection with charitable practice and Christian tradition. The views and considerations put forward in this regard, in conclusion, it should be noted that the system of social services and social services in the West was formed on the basis of the Christian tradition. And in the east, the Genesis of social services acquired meaning in the combination of pre-Islamic values and Islamic values.

As a result of retrospective analysis and comparative analysis of sources, the formation and development of social work can be divided into the following stages:

primitive stage: practiced only to take care of their loved ones;

cultural stage: manifested in the way of showing help to those in need, physical and mental;

institutional stage: formed in the form of professional, systematic and structured assistance;

commercial phase: it is observed that making a profit by providing assistance is practiced as a type of work.

In this regard, Professor M. Ganieva writes, “three stages can be distinguished in the development of social work. The first stage is represented by the formation of social work as a profession. The second stage is represented by the transformation of the social worker profession into a social institution in the 20th century in North America and Europe. The third stage is represented by the spread of social care throughout the world” [5]. We believe that these steps can become more sophisticated if we also take into account the unique perspective of social care in each region.

International experience in the practice of social services in developed countries has been accumulated. This, in turn, requires focusing on the history of their development, that is, on regional, mental aspects. It may be noted that Western European countries such as France, Germany and Italy have produced instructive results in this area.

The requirements for the professional, ethical and ethical qualities of social work specialists are as follows:

- the level of culture of modern society and its attitude towards social work and its main subjects - social service workers with their own philosophical and ethical ideas, national mentality and social traditions;
- with international requirements for the qualifications of a social worker, they are to some extent implemented in Sweden, Great Britain, the USA, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and other countries;
- with the objective needs of the formation and development of social services, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and specialized social service centres;
- the variety of options for solving social problems that are confirmed in the transition period is determined by the search for effective ways to overcome social exclusivity, social protection and social development of the population not in the context of economic reforms, but for the sake of human life.

The types and forms, the content of the professional activities of social work workers, the methods of implementation reflect not only the specifics of a particular industry that determines

the nature of this activity, but also the characteristics of society, a specific region - a region, a locality, the situation in the socio-economic sphere.

Requirements for the professional and ethical qualities of social work workers vary depending on the scope of the tasks of social work and the characteristics of objects of social protection of the population.

Poverty, homelessness, vagrancy, antisocial behaviour of children and adolescents, deviant behaviour of adults, prostitution, orphanhood, drunkenness, disability, etc. are important factors influencing the nature of a specialist's activity and determining the formation of the necessary professional qualities.

Accordingly, of great importance in the development of professional social work are the documents adopted in October 1994 by the International Federation of Social Workers, these are: "the international declaration of ethical and ethical principles of social work," which states that the relationship, that is, the relationship between a social worker and client, arise taking into account the following principles:

- each person is valuable for his uniqueness, which must be taken into account and embellished;
- every person has the right to self-expression;
- social workers must defend the principles of social justice;
- social workers provide assistance to every person who turns to them for help and advice, regardless of his gender, age, physical and mental disabilities, social and racial origin, religion, language, political views;
- social workers respect the fundamental rights of individuals and groups in accordance with the UN Declaration of Human Rights and other international conventions based on this declaration;
- social workers adhere to the principles of personal integrity, responsibility for the use of information in their work and secrecy. Social workers maintain reasonable confidentiality even if country laws conflict with these requirements;
- social workers work closely with their clients for their benefit, but not to the detriment of others;
- social work directly or indirectly opposes terrorism, torture and other actions aimed at causing suffering to people, discrimination against individuals, groups, and government structures.

### **III. METHODOLOGY & EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS**

It has been established that a social work specialist, based on the staffing level and functional responsibilities established in his organization (enterprise, institution), performs the following job responsibilities:

managing the process of social leisure provided by government and non-governmental organizations, as well as conducting situational work (case management): comprehensive assessment of living conditions, development of a service plan, coordination of services provided and their monitoring, as well as evaluation of results;

determination and application of optimal forms of social protection and social assistance;

citizens in difficult living conditions (disability, inability to self-care in old age or illness, unemployment, orphanhood, loneliness, neglect, poverty, conflict or abuse in the family, violation of rights, lack of a specific place of residence, addiction to psychoactive substances, mental disorder, AIDS/HIV, etc. organization of comprehensive social protection for children with disabilities due to existing diseases;

application of scientifically based approaches to social services to the population in its activities;  
awareness of and promotion of overcoming personal, social, environmental and spiritual difficulties that have a negative impact on individuals and groups with disabilities;  
helping people escape difficult living conditions by providing psychosocial services of a legal, preventive, supportive, rehabilitative and therapeutic nature;  
helping each client make broad use of his personal capabilities to improve his life situation;  
use of all available funds and public resources in the social protection of socially vulnerable populations and groups.

The description also states that “a social work specialist has the following powers in the performance of social and legal duties”. This:

interaction with state and other government bodies and local government bodies and other organizations to protect the interests of citizens in matters of health, education, law and social protection, exchange of information in the prescribed manner;

submission of documents to government authorities to protect the interests of persons in need of social protection;

submitting appeals to the court and other law enforcement agencies to protect the rights and legitimate interests of their clients (in cases of physical, emotional, sexual violence and coercion);

monitoring of problem and conflict families, study and assessment of the social, economic, spiritual state of the family;

participation in overcoming problematic situations or conflicts in the family;

informing clients about benefits established by law, pensions and benefits, as well as other types of social assistance, assistance in collecting and processing documents necessary for assigning pensions and benefits;

development of methodological materials and recommendations on social protection issues;

group and individual psychotherapy, as well as counselling;

cooperation in preventing socially dangerous actions, including emergency situations (natural disasters, epidemics, military actions) and their consequences;

participation in establishing guardianship or trusteeship;

conducting an assessment (training) process, implementing social surveillance and monitoring;

creation and coordination of the use of household and social rehabilitation services, as well as convenient infrastructure for the needy segments of the population;

assistance to clients in solving housing and social problems;

assistance in employment, vocational training or retraining of unemployed citizens;

conducting consulting (training) on the development of communication, life, social and self-regulatory skills.

In addition, the social work specialist is shown in his activities the implementation of the following integrative tasks. This:

assistance in the implementation of preventive measures for socially significant diseases of somatic, mental, reproductive health at the individual, group and territorial levels;

developing the attitude of clients and population groups towards a healthy lifestyle;

coverage of issues of family planning, disability prevention;

- organization of medical and labour examination;
- organization of medical, social and professional rehabilitation of persons with disabilities;
- organization of social work in psychiatry, narcology, oncology, geriatrics, surgery, obstetrics-gynecology and other areas of clinical medicine;
- Preventing the spread of HIV infection, ensuring social protection of persons suffering from this disease and members of their families;
- formation of self-regulating and mutually helpful therapeutic communities of rehabilitation, psychological, pedagogical, socio-legal type;
- participation in the development of medical and social comprehensive programs for segments of the population in need of varying degrees of social protection;
- ensuring interaction and continuity of specialists of alternative professions in solving client problems;

#### **IV. RESULTS**

The description also states “the job responsibilities of a social work specialist,” which are as follows:

- formation of a database on families, single elderly, disabled and other citizens living or in difficult life situations, in need of social assistance and services;
- identifying the causes of social disadvantage, referring individuals and families to appropriate organizations and providing the necessary social assistance and services;
- case management or situational work: comprehensively assesses the client’s condition, draws up a plan for the services provided and cooperates in their provision, monitors the quality of the services provided;
- families with disabilities and children with problems of psychophysical development, families of refugees and internally displaced persons, families of interned soldiers and combatants in peacetime, families raising orphans and children left without parental care (blood and closed families); implementation of social patronage for lonely elderly people, disabled people and people with disabilities;
- providing assistance in the preparation of documents necessary for referral to social service institutions, education and training, medical and health institutions;
- if necessary, facilitates placement in state social institutions for the elderly, disabled and other persons in need of social protection and in need of outside care, and also accompanies them when visiting these institutions;
- assistance to persons with disabilities or mobility problems in preparing documents to receive rehabilitation technical aids;
- coordination of the activities of various state, non-state, public, religious organizations and institutions that provide assistance to families with children, single elderly and disabled citizens;
- entering into a unified database information about the family’s withdrawal from a difficult lifestyle;
- providing assistance in the preparation and execution of documents for the admission of those in need of social protection for long-term or temporary social work, establishment of guardianship and trusteeship, hospitalization;
- participation in organizing leisure and recreational activities for the client;
- identification of those in need of social patronage, analysis of the dynamics and types of quality of services provided;

participation in the processes of formation and improvement of social and family policy in the territory, preparation and implementation of territorial social programs;

participation in the work of the methodological council, methodological associations of social workers, organization and conduct of seminars on social issues;

consulting citizens and specialists on social issues;

maintaining necessary documents on labour activities.

Today, there is a growing demand in society for social work specialists. Noting the positive achievements of Western countries in this direction, the study of their functionality acquires practical significance. Improving the system of training social work specialists is acquiring practical importance. Taking the functional model of a social teacher as a basis, we should highlight six of its functions. These include: diagnostics, planning and orientation, prognostics, socio-therapeutic (stimulating and preventive), human rights, socio-pedagogical, psychological, medical, everyday, communicative, propaganda (advertising), cultural, organizational aspects.

Social work as an activity is a tool that provides, plans, directs, forms and implements the practice of social policy, ensuring the movement of such interconnected scientific-cognitive and practical-organizational parts of social policy in society.

The scientific-cognitive part of social policy serves to generalize social processes and their direction, determining the analysis of needs and their awareness in society. And the practical and organizational part serves to fulfil the strategic objectives of social policy, ensuring the practical implementation of the developed contraceptive situations. It should be noted that social work functionally serves to protect the interests of the individual, society, planning and managing the activities of social institutions, timely identification of situations in social processes, prompt and targeted use of available resources. In this issue, S.E. Hobfoll and R.S. Lilly responded to the resource [7], calling it material (income, housing, transport, clothing) and intangible (desire, goal) objects, external (social status, family, friends, work, social status) and internal (self-esteem, professionalism, optimism, self-control, life values, faith, etc.) introduced interpersonal characteristics, mental and physical, volitional, emotional classifications. The authors reacted to the surface of the resource on a personal, that is, micro level, without paying attention to its volume on a macro level. The macrocosm includes family, professional, national, religious, sectoral levels, the immediate economic, social and cultural spheres of society, and from the point of view of management, the directly political sphere. This requires improving social services not only within the framework of policy, but also by taking into account social problems that are expressed in society. The final indicator of social services should be expressed in qualitative changes at the personal level of an individual in need or members of a group.

However, it is unlikely that the indicator could be the following, that is, the person or group members in need:

- the emergence of an understanding of life values;
- -high degree of expression of interest in self-awareness;
- personal life, life, perception of health as a value;
- mastery of the culture of receiving practical help;
- desire to acquire knowledge and improve it;
- willingness to cooperate;
- knowledge of cultural behaviour in various conflict situations;
- the severity of the increase in functional literacy and B.

From the above considerations it follows that social service as an activity arose and is developing in each country in its own way, a service for getting rid of congenital (hereditary), deceased



social defects, it is members of society at different levels and stages, returning to life, ensuring the visibility of neglected, lonely street people. It is worth noting that by now, social service as a profession has acquired practical significance in the life of society; a number of industries have emerged, or more precisely, areas of assistance.<sup>89</sup>

## V. CONCLUSIONS

Social service (work) as a profession is based on the idea of “The highest value of a person.” Based on the above:

firstly, in the social service system, various forms and forms of social assistance were practiced, differing in sociocultural characteristics, which in each country and region acquired their own special manifestation in a certain historical unit of time;

secondly, today the concept of international social service also goes hand in hand. At the same time, the basic principles of international legal norms and universal human values are observed. This, in turn, requires the creation of an Association of Social Service Workers;

thirdly, to improve the study of social service as a profession, it is advisable to take into account its historical and philosophical features. In addition, since the service operates as a profession, it will be necessary to focus on aspects such as medical, psychological, economic, legal, cultural, gender.

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