

1MSW5

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY



DR. C.V. RAMAN UNIVERSITY

Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur AN AISECT GROUP UNIVERSITY

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SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

Credit- 4

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STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM

Title of the Program	: MASTER IN SOCIAL WORK
Program Type	: POSTGRADUATE
Program Credits	: 80
Program Duration	: 2 Years
Eligibility Criteria	: GRADUATION

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

1. To provide theoretical knowledge and practical understanding of social work, social welfare, human rights, and social development.
2. To develop professional skills and ethical values required for effective social work practice.
3. To promote social responsibility, empathy, and humanitarian values among students.
4. To create awareness about Indian social problems, welfare policies, and development programmes.
5. To prepare students for professional practice, research, and community development activities.
6. To enhance students' ability to work with individuals, groups, communities, and organizations.

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

1. Understand the concepts, principles, values, and methods of social work.
2. Analyze social problems, human needs, and welfare issues at local, national, and global levels.
3. Apply social work methods and skills in different practice settings.
4. Demonstrate professional ethics, empathy, and social responsibility.
5. Understand the role of NGOs, government organizations, and welfare agencies.
6. Develop communication, leadership, and teamwork skills.
7. Promote human rights, social justice, and inclusive development.
8. Engage in community development, social reform, and social welfare programmes.
9. Use critical thinking and problem-solving abilities in social work practice.
10. Prepare for employment, higher education, research, and social service careers.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE

Course Title	:	SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY
Course Type	:	CORE COURSE
Course Code	:	1MSW5
Course Credits	:	4
Semester	:	1

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students can able to know the correction of Social Thoughts On Society .
- Students can learn about community committee.
- Students can get the knowledge of Women, Children And Social Justice and settlement.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Student should be able to relate Social Thoughts On Society
- Student should know about thoughts on society
- Student should know the different aspects of thoughts
- Student should know problems of Women, Children And Social Justice

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UNIT 1

NATURE AND SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY

STRUCTURE:

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Objectives
- 1.3 Meaning and Definition of Sociology
- 1.4 Classical Definitions of Sociology
- 1.5 Comparative Understanding of Definitions
- 1.6 Nature of Sociology
- 1.7 Emergence of Sociology as a Discipline
- 1.8 Industrial Revolution and its Impact
- 1.9 French Revolution and Social Transformation
- 1.10 Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment Influence
- 1.11 Society: Structure and Functions
- 1.12 Functionalist and Conflict Perspectives
- 1.13 Scope of Sociology
- 1.14 Formalistic and Synthetic Schools
- 1.15 Relevance of Sociology in India
- 1.16 Contemporary Importance of Sociology
- 1.17 Summary
- 1.18 Glossary
- 1.19 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 1.20 Suggested Readings - OER
- 1.21 References
- 1.22 Exercise

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Sociology is the systematic and scientific study of society, social relationships, and patterns of social interaction. Unlike common-sense understandings of social life, Sociology attempts to move beyond personal opinions and moral judgments in order to examine how societies function, how institutions are organized, and how power, inequality, and culture shape human experience.

The term Sociology was first coined by **Auguste Comte** in 1838. Comte combined the Latin word *socius*, meaning companion or society, with the Greek word *logos*, meaning study or science. For Comte, Sociology was meant to be the “queen of the sciences” — a discipline that would apply scientific methods to the study of social order and progress.

NOTE

Over time, various thinkers have defined Sociology from different theoretical standpoints. **Emile Durkheim** defined Sociology as the study of “social facts,” which he described as ways of acting, thinking, and feeling external to the individual and endowed with a power of coercion. For Durkheim, society exists beyond individuals and shapes their actions.

In contrast, **Max Weber** defined Sociology as a science that seeks interpretative understanding of social action. Weber argued that human behavior must be understood by interpreting the meanings individuals attach to their actions. This marked a shift from purely structural explanations to a more interpretative, subjective understanding of society.

Similarly, **Karl Marx** saw society through the lens of economic relations and class conflict. For Marx, the structure of society is shaped by material conditions, particularly the mode of production, and history advances through class struggle.

From these perspectives, it becomes clear that Sociology is not confined to a single definition. Rather, it is a dynamic discipline that studies social structure, social interaction, power relations, institutions, and change.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

After reading this section, you will be able to:

- Define the fundamental concepts and foundational theories of sociology.
- Examine the scope and subject matter of sociological study.
- Analyze the relevance of sociological perspectives in analyzing contemporary society.

1.2 THE NATURE OF SOCIOLOGY

The nature of Sociology can be understood by examining its methodological, theoretical, and philosophical foundations.

First, Sociology is a social science. It studies human relationships rather than natural phenomena. However, it shares with natural sciences a commitment to systematic observation, evidence-based reasoning, and theoretical explanation. Sociologists employ both quantitative and qualitative methods — surveys, interviews, participant observation, statistical analysis, and case studies — to understand social reality.

NOTE

Second, Sociology is abstract rather than concrete. It does not study specific individuals in isolation but focuses on patterns of interaction and relationships. Concepts such as status, role, norm, value, institution, and social structure are abstract constructs that help explain recurring social behaviors.

Third, Sociology is both theoretical and empirical. It develops theories to explain social phenomena while grounding those theories in observed reality. Sociological theories such as functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, and feminism provide different lenses through which society can be understood.

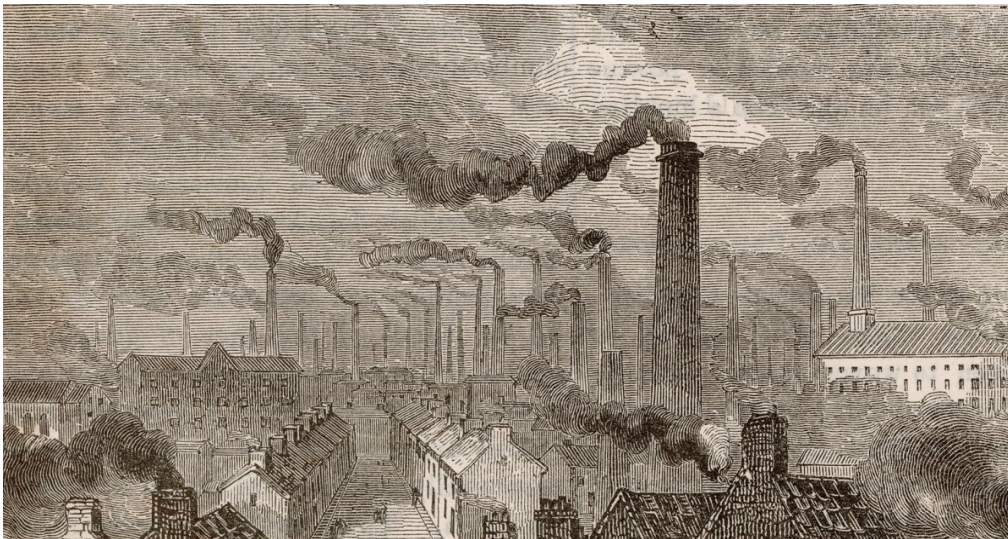
Fourth, Sociology is value-neutral in principle. Weber emphasized that while sociologists may choose research topics based on values, their analysis must remain objective. However, complete neutrality has often been debated, especially in critical traditions like Marxism and feminist sociology, which argue that scholarship should challenge oppression.

Finally, Sociology is dynamic. It evolves alongside society. As new social realities emerge — digital culture, globalization, environmental crises — Sociology expands its scope to include them.

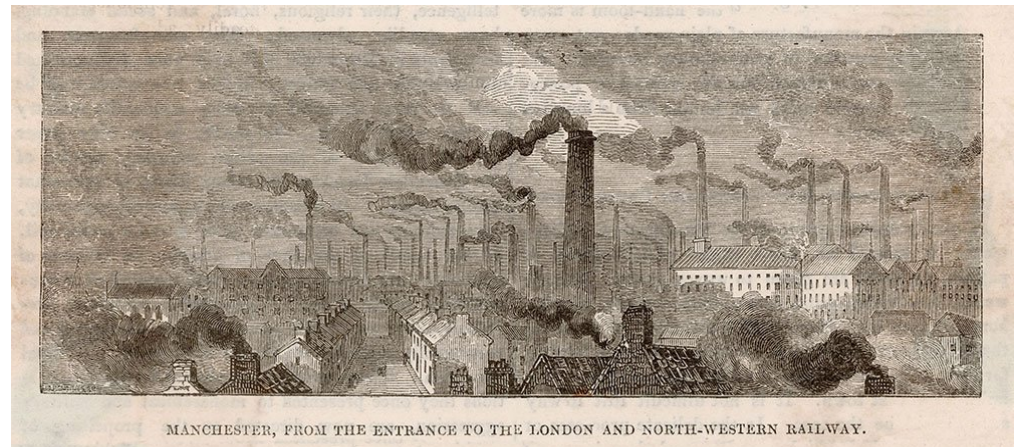
1.3 EMERGENCE OF SOCIOLOGY AS A DISCIPLINE

Sociology did not emerge in isolation. It developed in response to profound social transformations in Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The **Industrial Revolution** radically transformed economic and social life.

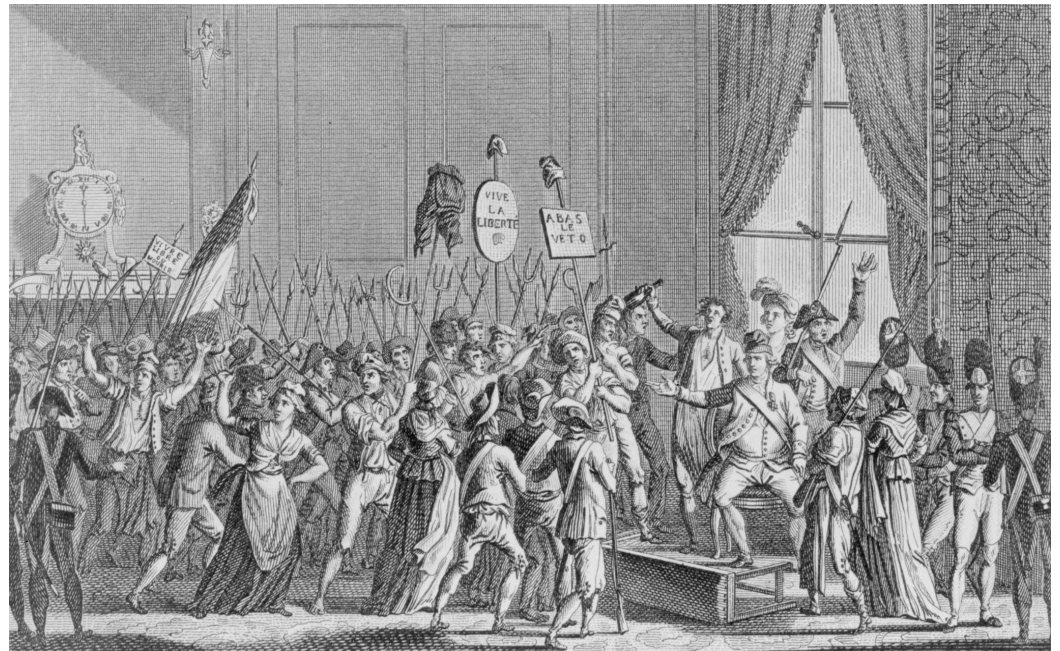


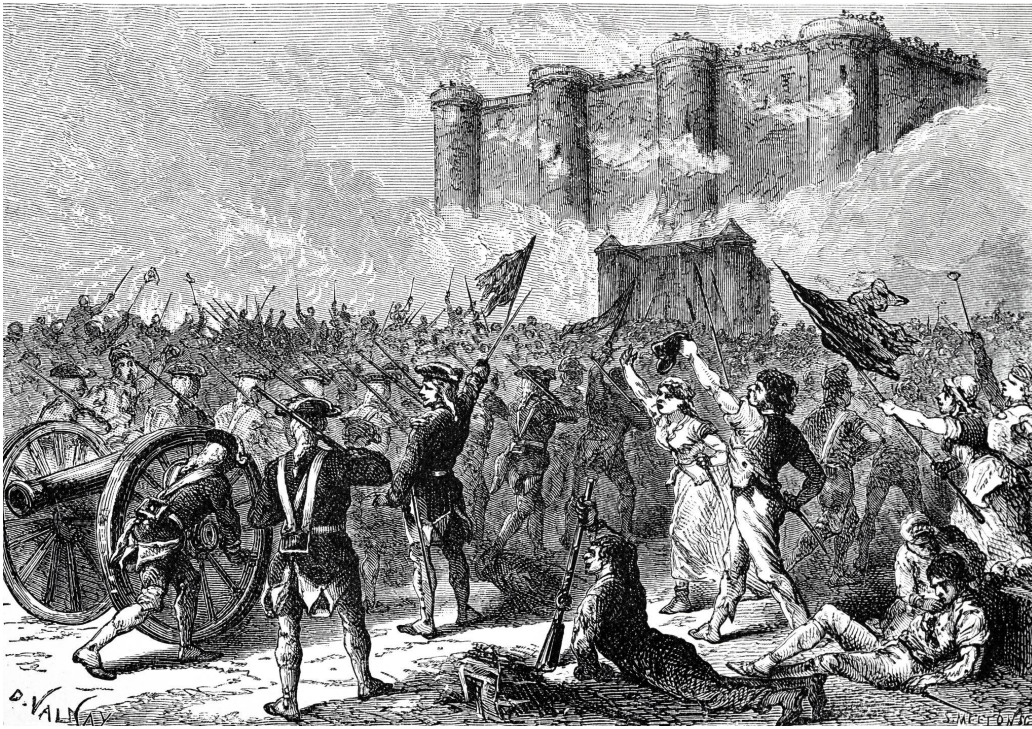
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Rural populations migrated to urban centers, traditional family structures weakened, new class divisions emerged, and factory systems replaced agrarian economies. The resulting poverty, exploitation, and urban crowding demanded systematic explanation.

Simultaneously, the **French Revolution** challenged feudal authority and introduced ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity.



NOTE

The collapse of monarchy and the rise of democratic ideals destabilized traditional social hierarchies. Intellectuals sought to understand how social order could be maintained amid rapid change.

In addition, the Scientific Revolution encouraged rational inquiry and empirical investigation. Thinkers believed that society, like nature, could be studied through systematic observation and analysis.

In this context, Comte proposed Sociology as a new science capable of diagnosing social disorder and prescribing reforms. Later thinkers like Durkheim institutionalized Sociology by establishing university departments and journals, giving the discipline academic legitimacy.

1.4 SOCIETY: STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

Society is not merely a collection of individuals; it is a structured network of relationships governed by norms and institutions. Sociologists define society as a system of organized relationships characterized by cooperation, interdependence, and shared culture.

NOTE



Social structure refers to the patterned arrangement of institutions and relationships that shape social life. It includes statuses (positions individuals occupy), roles (expected behaviors), groups, norms, and institutions such as family, religion, education, economy, and state.

From a functionalist perspective, particularly that of Durkheim, society resembles a living organism. Just as organs perform functions necessary for survival, social institutions perform functions necessary for social stability. The family socializes children, the economy distributes resources, education transmits knowledge, religion promotes moral cohesion, and the state maintains order.

However, conflict theorists, particularly Marx, argue that social structure reflects inequalities and power struggles. Institutions often serve dominant groups, perpetuating class exploitation and social inequality.

Thus, society can be understood both as a system seeking equilibrium and as a field of conflict shaped by power relations.

1.5 SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY

The scope of Sociology is vast because society itself is complex.

Sociology studies social institutions such as family, marriage, religion, education, economy, and politics. It examines social stratification systems like caste, class, race, and gender. It investigates processes such as socialization, social control, deviance, and social change.

It also includes specialized branches such as rural sociology, urban sociology, industrial sociology, medical sociology, environmental sociology, and gender studies.

NOTE

Two classical approaches define its scope. The Formalistic School, associated with Georg Simmel, argued that Sociology should study forms of interaction such as cooperation and conflict. The Synthetic School, associated with Durkheim, argued that Sociology should study society in its entirety.

Today, Sociology integrates both perspectives, studying both interaction patterns and institutional structures.

1.6 RELEVANCE OF SOCIOLOGY IN INDIA

In the Indian context, Sociology has particular significance due to the country's diversity and complexity.

India is characterized by:

- The caste system
- Religious pluralism
- Linguistic diversity
- Economic inequality
- Rapid modernization and urbanization

Indian sociologists such as G.S. Ghurye, M.N. Srinivas, and Andre Beteille have contributed significantly to understanding caste dynamics, social mobility, Sanskritization, and rural transformation.

Sociology helps policymakers understand poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, communalism, and regional disparities. It also aids social workers, administrators, and development planners in implementing effective social programs.

In contemporary India, Sociology is essential for analyzing globalization, migration, digital transformation, and identity politics.

1.7 SUMMARY

Sociology emerged as a response to social crisis and transformation. From Comte's positivism to Weber's interpretative sociology and Marx's conflict theory, it has developed into a rich and diverse discipline. It examines society's structure, institutions, and processes while remaining responsive to new challenges.

In a country like India, where tradition and modernity coexist in complex ways, Sociology is not merely an academic discipline but a practical tool for understanding and transforming society.

NOTE**1.8 GLOSSARY**

Sociology – The scientific study of society, social relationships, and institutions.

Social Facts – Ways of acting, thinking, and feeling that are external to individuals and exert control over them.

Social Action – Meaningful human behavior directed toward others.

Positivism – The belief that society can be studied scientifically using observation and empirical methods.

Social Structure – The organized pattern of social relationships and institutions in society.

Status – A social position occupied by an individual.

Role – The expected behavior associated with a particular status.

Social Institution – Established systems that fulfill basic social needs (e.g., family, education, religion).

Functionalism – A theoretical perspective that views society as a system of interconnected parts working together.

Conflict Theory – A perspective that sees society as characterized by inequality and power struggle.

Mechanical Solidarity – Social cohesion based on similarity, typical of traditional societies.

Organic Solidarity – Social cohesion based on division of labor, typical of modern societies.

Class Struggle – Conflict between social classes over control of resources.

Verstehen – Interpretative understanding of social action.

Value Neutrality – The principle that sociologists should remain objective in their analysis.

Social Stratification – The hierarchical arrangement of individuals into social classes or groups.

Caste System – A hereditary social hierarchy found primarily in India.

Modernization – The process of social change from traditional to modern society.

1.9 SUGGESTED READINGS – OER

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13635	

1.10 EXERCISE

Part 1

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

- Sociology emerged mainly in which century?
 - 16th
 - 17th
 - 18th
 - 19th
 Answer: d
- Who defined Sociology as the study of social facts?
 - Weber
 - Durkheim
 - Marx
 - Comte
 Answer: b
- Verstehen is associated with:
 - Durkheim
 - Marx
 - Weber
 - Parsons
 Answer: c
- Conflict theory is mainly associated with:
 - Marx
 - Weber
 - Comte
 - Spencer
 Answer: a
- Mechanical solidarity is found in:
 - Industrial societies
 - Modern societies

NOTE

- c) Traditional societies
 - d) Capitalist societies
- Answer: c

B. Short Answer Questions

1. Define Sociology.
2. Explain the concept of Social Facts.
3. What is Positivism?
4. Define Social Structure.
5. What is the difference between Status and Role?

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Explain Mechanical and Organic Solidarity.
2. What is Value Neutrality?
3. What were the major causes for the emergence of Sociology?
4. Define Functionalism.
5. What is Conflict Theory?

1.21 Long Answer Questions (300 Marks)

1. Discuss the meaning and definition of Sociology with reference to classical thinkers.
2. Explain the nature and scope of Sociology in detail.
3. Discuss the emergence of Sociology as a discipline in the context of the Industrial and French Revolutions.

UNIT 2

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

STRUCTURE:

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Objectives
- 2.3 Concept of Social Work
- 2.4 Meaning and Definition of Social Work
- 2.5 Historical Development of Social Work in the West
- 2.6 Development of Social Work in India
- 2.7 Nature of Social Work
- 2.8 Scope and Fields of Social Work
- 2.9 Interrelationship between Sociology and Social Work
- 2.10 Sociology as the Theoretical Foundation of Social Work
- 2.11 Social Work as Applied Sociology
- 2.12 Differences between Sociology and Social Work
- 2.13 Complementary Nature of Both Disciplines
- 2.14 Sociological Perspectives in Professional Practice
- 2.15 Structural Functionalism and Social Work
- 2.16 Conflict Theory and Social Justice
- 2.17 Feminist Perspective in Social Work Practice
- 2.18 Symbolic Interactionism in Case Work
- 2.19 Systems Theory and Ecological Approach
- 2.20 Role of Social Worker in Indian Society
- 2.21 Social Worker as Change Agent and Advocate
- 2.22 Social Worker in Rural and Urban Development
- 2.23 Social Worker in Women, Child and Community Welfare
- 2.24 Ethical Responsibilities of Social Workers
- 2.25 Summary
- 2.26 Glossary
- 2.27 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 2.28 Suggested Readings - OER
- 2.29 References
- 2.30 Exercise

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Sociology and Social Work are two closely connected disciplines that share a common concern for society and social welfare. However, they differ in their orientation, purpose, and method. Sociology is primarily concerned with understanding society. It examines social structure,

NOTE

institutions, social relationships, inequality, power, and social change. Social Work, on the other hand, is concerned with intervening in society. It seeks to apply knowledge in order to solve social problems, empower individuals and communities, and promote social justice.

The relationship between Sociology and Social Work can be understood through a simple comparison: Sociology provides the theoretical foundation, while Social Work provides practical application.

For instance, Sociology explains why poverty exists by analyzing structural inequality, unemployment, class hierarchy, caste discrimination, and lack of access to education. Social Work uses this understanding to design welfare programs, implement skill training initiatives, support self-help groups, and rehabilitate vulnerable populations.

In India, where society is characterized by deep-rooted caste hierarchies, economic inequality, gender discrimination, rural underdevelopment, and religious diversity, Social Work cannot function effectively without sociological knowledge. A social worker addressing domestic violence must understand patriarchy, gender norms, economic dependency, and social stigma. A social worker working with tribal communities must understand kinship systems, cultural identity, marginalization, and state policy.

Thus, Social Work depends heavily on sociological understanding.

This unit examines the concept of Social Work, its historical development, its professional methods, its relationship with Sociology, the application of sociological theories in practice, and the role of social workers in Indian society.

2.2 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

- Differentiate between the academic discipline of sociology and the applied practice of social work.
- Identify the theoretical contributions of sociology to social work interventions.
- Evaluate how social workers apply sociological concepts in the field.

2.2 CONCEPT OF SOCIAL WORK

2.2.1 Meaning and Definition of Social Work

NOTE

Social Work is a professional discipline aimed at enhancing individual and collective well-being. It is both a field of academic study and a practice-oriented profession.

The International Federation of Social Workers defines Social Work as:

“A practice-based profession and academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people.”

This definition highlights several essential elements:

1. Social Work is practice-based.
2. It is grounded in academic knowledge.
3. It promotes social change.
4. It emphasizes empowerment.
5. It is committed to social justice.

Social Work is not mere charity or voluntary service. Charity may provide temporary relief, but Social Work seeks long-term solutions. It addresses the root causes of problems and promotes sustainable development.

Social Work operates at multiple levels:

- Micro level (individual and family intervention)
- Mezzo level (group and community work)
- Macro level (policy advocacy and structural reform)

Thus, Social Work integrates personal assistance with structural transformation.

2.2.2 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

(A) Development in Western Countries

The origin of professional Social Work can be traced to the social problems created by the Industrial Revolution in Europe and America during the 18th and 19th centuries. Rapid industrialization led to urbanization, overcrowded cities, poverty, child labor, unemployment, and health crises.

Philanthropic organizations initially provided assistance to the poor. However, these efforts gradually became organized and systematic.

NOTE

Two important movements shaped the development of professional Social Work:

1. The Charity Organization Society (COS)
2. The Settlement House Movement

The Charity Organization Society focused on individual casework and moral reform. The Settlement House Movement emphasized community reform and social change.

By the early 20th century, formal training institutions were established, and Social Work became recognized as a profession requiring education, skill, and ethical responsibility.

(B) Development in India

In India, Social Work has both traditional and modern roots. Traditionally, Indian society emphasized charity (daan), service (seva), and community welfare through religious and community institutions.

However, modern professional Social Work developed during the colonial period and expanded significantly after independence.

Key developments include:

- Establishment of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in 1936.
- Launch of the Community Development Programme in 1952.
- Expansion of welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, and children.
- Growth of NGOs and voluntary organizations post-independence.

After 1947, India faced immense challenges including poverty, illiteracy, health crises, and rural backwardness. The need for trained social workers increased.

Today, Social Work in India is involved in:

- Rural development
- Slum rehabilitation
- Tribal welfare
- Women empowerment
- Public health campaigns
- Disaster relief
- Child protection

2.2.3 Nature of Social Work

Social Work has several defining characteristics:

1. It is a professional discipline requiring formal training and certification.
2. It is humanitarian and guided by compassion.
3. It is scientific and evidence-based.
4. It is value-oriented, grounded in social justice and equality.
5. It is developmental and reformatory.
6. It focuses on empowerment rather than dependency.

Unlike casual helping behavior, professional Social Work involves assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, and follow-up.

2.2.4 Scope and Fields of Social Work

The scope of Social Work is broad and multidimensional. It includes:

1. Medical and Psychiatric Social Work
2. School Social Work
3. Industrial Social Work
4. Family and Child Welfare
5. Correctional and Rehabilitation Services
6. Community Development
7. Social Welfare Administration
8. Social Policy and Advocacy
9. NGO and International Development Work

In contemporary India, social workers are employed in hospitals, schools, NGOs, corporate CSR divisions, government welfare departments, and international organizations.

2.3 INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

Sociology and Social Work are closely connected disciplines that share a common concern for society, social problems, and human welfare. However, they differ in orientation, objectives, and method. Sociology is

NOTE

primarily a theoretical and analytical discipline, while Social Work is a practice-oriented profession. The relationship between them can best be understood as one of theory and application.

2.3.1 Sociology as the Theoretical Foundation of Social Work

Sociology provides the conceptual tools necessary to understand social structures, institutions, power relations, inequality, culture, norms, and social change. Social workers rely on sociological knowledge to analyze:

- Poverty and class inequality
- Caste hierarchies
- Gender discrimination
- Social exclusion
- Urbanization and migration
- Family breakdown

Without sociological understanding, social work interventions may address symptoms but fail to address root causes.

For example:

- Sociology explains poverty as a structural issue linked to class relations, unemployment, lack of access to resources, and state policy.
- Social Work uses this knowledge to design livelihood programs, microfinance initiatives, and welfare schemes.

Thus, Sociology provides the diagnostic framework, and Social Work provides intervention.

2.3.2 Social Work as Applied Sociology

Social Work is often described as “applied sociology” because it applies sociological concepts in real-life situations.

Where Sociology studies:

- Social disorganization
- Deviance
- Social stratification
- Family systems

Social Work intervenes through:

- Case work
- Group work

- Community organization
- Policy advocacy

In this sense, Sociology is explanatory, while Social Work is remedial and reformatory.

2.3.3 Differences between Sociology and Social Work

Basis	Sociology	Social Work
Nature	Theoretical discipline	Practice-oriented profession
Aim	Understanding society	Changing and improving society
Method	Research and analysis	Intervention and empowerment
Orientation	Analytical	Action-based
Level	Macro focus	Micro, Mezzo and Macro

Despite differences, both disciplines are complementary.

2.3.4 Importance of Sociology in Indian Social Work

India's social structure is deeply shaped by:

- Caste system
- Patriarchy
- Religious diversity
- Rural-urban divide
- Economic inequality

A social worker must understand these sociological realities to intervene effectively.

For example:

- Domestic violence must be analyzed in the context of patriarchy and gender norms.
- Tribal displacement must be understood in the context of marginalization and state development policy.
- Slum rehabilitation requires knowledge of migration patterns and urban social structure.

Thus, Social Work depends heavily on sociological analysis.

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2.4 SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Sociological theories guide professional social work practice. They help social workers understand problems systematically rather than emotionally.

2.4.1 Structural Functionalism

Structural Functionalism views society as a system of interrelated parts working together to maintain stability.

In Social Work:

- Family dysfunction is seen as a breakdown of social roles.
- School dropouts are analyzed as institutional failures.
- Rehabilitation aims to restore social balance.

This perspective emphasizes social order and integration.

2.4.2 Conflict Theory

Conflict Theory focuses on power, inequality, and exploitation.

In Social Work:

- Poverty is seen as a result of class inequality.
- Gender violence is linked to patriarchal power.
- Caste discrimination is analyzed as structural oppression.

Social workers influenced by this theory advocate for social justice and structural reform.

2.4.3 Feminist Perspective

The feminist perspective highlights gender inequality and patriarchy.

Application:

- Understanding domestic violence.
- Empowering women economically.
- Promoting gender-sensitive policies.

This perspective shifts focus from individual blame to structural gender injustice.

2.4.4 Symbolic Interactionism

This theory studies everyday interactions and meanings.

Application in case work:

- Understanding client self-image.

- Studying stigma.
- Counseling and behavioral change.

It emphasizes communication and interpretation.

2.4.5 Systems Theory and Ecological Approach

Systems theory views individuals as part of larger systems (family, community, society).

Ecological perspective stresses the interaction between person and environment.

Application:

- Child behavior problems are analyzed in family context.
- Substance abuse is linked to peer and community influence.

These perspectives help in holistic intervention.

NOTE

2.5 ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER IN INDIAN SOCIETY

India presents complex social challenges: poverty, caste inequality, gender discrimination, unemployment, rural backwardness, and urban slums. Social workers perform multiple roles in this context.

2.5.1 Social Worker as Change Agent

Social workers promote social transformation by:

- Challenging unjust systems
- Encouraging community participation
- Promoting awareness

They act as catalysts for social reform.

2.5.2 Advocate for Marginalized Groups

Social workers defend the rights of:

- Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- Women and children
- Migrant workers
- Persons with disabilities

They ensure access to welfare schemes and legal protections.

2.5.3 Role in Rural Development

In rural India, social workers:

NOTE

- Promote self-help groups
- Facilitate microfinance
- Implement rural employment schemes
- Support Panchayati Raj institutions

They encourage grassroots democracy.

2.5.4 Role in Urban Development

In urban areas:

- Slum rehabilitation
- Street children welfare
- Drug de-addiction programs
- Skill training for youth

Urban social work focuses on rehabilitation and empowerment.

2.5.5 Role in Women and Child Welfare

Social workers:

- Address domestic violence
- Prevent child labour
- Promote girl education
- Provide counseling and legal aid

They work through NGOs, government departments, and community organizations.

2.5.6 Role in Policy and Administration

Social workers:

- Contribute to policy design
- Monitor welfare schemes
- Conduct social research
- Promote participatory governance

Thus, they function at micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. How does Sociology provide a foundation for Social Work?
2. Explain Social Work as applied Sociology.
3. Discuss the differences between Sociology and Social Work.
4. How does Conflict Theory influence Social Work practice?

5. Explain the role of Social Workers in rural India.

NOTE

2.6 SUMMARY

Sociology and Social Work share a deep intellectual and practical connection. Sociology provides theoretical understanding of social structures and inequalities, while Social Work applies this knowledge to promote social change and empowerment.

Sociological perspectives such as Functionalism, Conflict Theory, Feminism, and Systems Theory guide professional intervention.

In India, social workers play crucial roles in rural development, women empowerment, child protection, urban welfare, and policy advocacy. They act as change agents committed to social justice.

2.7 GLOSSARY

□ **Applied Sociology:** The use of sociological theories, research, and methodologies to find solutions to practical, real-world social problems.

□ **Casework:** A primary method of social work that involves direct, one-on-one intervention with individuals and families to help them resolve personal and social issues.

□ **Empowerment:** A core goal in social work focused on increasing the spiritual, political, social, or economic strength of individuals and communities, allowing them to take control of their own lives.

□ **Pure Science:** A field of study (like traditional sociology) focused primarily on the discovery of fundamental truths, the formulation of theories, and the accumulation of knowledge for its own sake, rather than immediate practical application.

□ **Social Action:** Coordinated community efforts and advocacy aimed at bringing about structural social change, altering social policies, or addressing systemic inequalities.

□ **Social Dynamics:** The study of the forces, processes, and mechanisms that drive social change and development over time.

NOTE

- **Social Engineering:** The application of sociological principles and knowledge by policymakers and social workers to design and implement programs that manage or alter social behaviors and structures.
- **Social Intervention:** A deliberate, planned action taken by social workers to alter a specific situation, behavior, or systemic condition to improve the well-being of a client or community.
- **Social Problem:** A condition or behavior that negatively impacts a large number of people within a society and is generally recognized as needing to be addressed or resolved (e.g., poverty, discrimination).
- **Social Work:** A practice-based profession and academic discipline that applies sociological and psychological knowledge to promote social change, development, cohesion, and the empowerment of people.
- **Sociology:** The systematic and scientific study of human society, social behavior, social institutions, and the complex structures that shape everyday life.

2.8 SUGGESTED READINGS – OER

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13636	

2.9

Part 1

A. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

1. Sociology is primarily concerned with:
 - A) Direct intervention in social problems
 - B) Understanding and analyzing society
 - C) Providing charity services
 - D) Religious reform

NOTE

2. Social Work is best described as:

- A) Purely theoretical discipline
- B) Applied Sociology
- C) Political ideology
- D) Religious practice

3. Sociology provides _____ while Social Work provides _____.

- A) Charity, reform
- B) Theory, practice
- C) Policy, religion
- D) Research, politics

4. Social Work operates at which levels?

- A) Only individual level
- B) Only community level
- C) Micro, Mezzo and Macro levels
- D) Only policy level

5. Conflict Theory in Social Work emphasizes:

- A) Social harmony
- B) Social inequality and power relations
- C) Cultural festivals
- D) Religious beliefs

ANSWERS

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4. C
- 5. B

B. Short Answer Questions

- 1. Define Social Work.
- 2. Explain the relationship between Sociology and Social Work.
- 3. What is Structural Functionalism?
- 4. Define Systems Theory.
- 5. Who is a change agent?

NOTE

Part 2

C. Long Answer Questions (200 Words)

1. Discuss in detail the interrelationship between Sociology and Social Work.
2. Explain sociological perspectives in professional practice.
3. Describe the role of Social Workers in Indian society.
4. "Social Work is applied Sociology." Discuss.

D. Long Answer Questions (300 Words)

1. Critically examine the complementary relationship between Sociology and Social Work.
2. Discuss the role of Social Workers as agents of social transformation in India.
3. Analyze the importance of sociological knowledge in Indian Social Work practice.

UNIT 3

SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 3.2 Introduction
- 3.3 Objectives
- 3.4 Social Structure Analysis
- 3.5 Family Systems Analysis
- 3.6 Institutional Framework
- 3.7 Utility and Limitations
- 3.8 Education and Religion
- 3.9 Economy and Politics
- 3.10 Social Control Mechanisms
- 3.11 Structural Comparisons
- 3.12 Summary
- 3.13 Glossary
- 3.14 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 3.15 Suggested Readings
- 3.16 References
- 3.17 Exercise

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Social structure refers to organized, enduring patterns of relationships, roles, and institutions that shape social interactions across time. Emile Durkheim described these as "social facts"—external forces that compel individual behavior beyond personal will. Karl Marx emphasized class conflicts as the driving force behind structural change.

In India (population 1.43 billion, 2026 estimate), social structure reflects immense diversity organized hierarchically yet dynamically:

- **Vertical stratification:** Caste, class, gender hierarchies persist alongside meritocracy.
- **Horizontal organization:** Village communities, urban neighborhoods, religious congregations.

Current Data Snapshot: 65% rural population shapes agrarian family patterns (World Bank 2026), while rapid urbanization (35% urban) fragments traditional ties. The 1991 economic liberalization accelerated these shifts, with COVID-19 (2020-22) testing structural resilience—

NOTE

millions of migrants returned to village kinship networks when urban economies collapsed.

Let's begin with the most fundamental institution: the family, which forms the root of all social structure.

3.2 OBJECTIVES

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

- Understand the concept of social structure
- Explain the meaning of social institutions
- Describe family, marriage, and kinship systems
- Analyze the role of education and religion
- Understand economic and political institutions
- Explain social control and social norms

3.3 FAMILY, MARRIAGE, AND KINSHIP - COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS

The family serves as the universal primary group, providing emotional support, economic cooperation, socialization, and cultural transmission. In India, families remain the cornerstone of identity despite modernization pressures.

Detailed Classification of Family Types:

1. **Joint Family System:** Multiple generations (three or more) living under one roof with shared resources. Prevalence remains high at 67% of rural households (NFHS-5, 2019-21 data). Key features include collective decision-making, pooled family economy, and strong elder authority. Historical example: Pre-1947 Bengali zamindar families sharing agricultural land. Advantages include elder wisdom-sharing and crisis support (seen during 2024 Assam floods when joint families pooled resources). Disadvantages encompass loss of privacy, intergenerational conflicts, and gender inequality (women's domestic labor remains unpaid and undervalued).
2. **Nuclear Family:** Consists of parents and unmarried children only. Urban prevalence: 52% in metropolitan areas (IIPS 2024 survey). Driven by job mobility, nuclear families function like compact power units—efficient for modern careers but vulnerable to isolation. Example: Kolkata IT professional couple raising children in high-rise apartments, dependent on paid childcare.

3. Extended Family: Nuclear family plus collateral relatives (uncles, aunts, their children). Common in tribal communities like Jharkhand's Santhal tribes where clan ties remain strong.

NOTE

Statistical Overview: Family Types by Region (NFHS-5 Adapted with 2026 Projections)

Region	Joint Family %	Nuclear Family %	Extended Family %
Rural North India	75	20	5
Urban South India	40	50	10
Kolkata Urban	35	55	10

Expanded Family Functions (Following Murdock's Framework):

- **Economic:** Income pooling and resource sharing.
- **Reproductive:** Childbearing and population maintenance.
- **Educational:** Socialization into cultural norms.
- **Recreational:** Emotional support and leisure.
India-specific addition: Religious functions through joint worship (puja, namaz).

Contemporary Family Challenges: India's aging population (10% over 60 by 2026) creates "empty nest" syndromes in urban areas. Case example: Bengal migrant laborers leave wives as de facto household heads, creating matriarchal shifts in absentia.

Social Work Interventions: Family counseling through ICDS centers, support groups facilitating smooth joint-to-nuclear transitions, legal aid for inheritance disputes.

Activity 1: Family Genogram Exercise: Draw your complete family tree across three generations. Identify primary roles, conflicts, and support patterns. (20 minutes)

3.3 MARRIAGE SYSTEMS: FORMS, PATTERNS, AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Marriage Systems: Forms, Patterns, and Contemporary Issues
Marriage represents socially approved sexual union and alliance formation, typically exogamous (outside immediate family) but endogamous by caste or community. India celebrates approximately 10 million marriages annually (Sample Registration System 2024).

Marriage Forms in India:

NOTE

- **Monogamy:** Legal and cultural norm (99% prevalence).
- **Polygamy:** Rare despite Muslim personal law allowance (up to 4 wives); actual incidence <2% even among Muslims.
- **Arranged Marriage (88% prevalence):** Parental matchmaking often using horoscopes and family compatibility. Advantages: Social stability, family alliances; challenges: Limited personal choice, compatibility gaps.
- **Love/Self-Choice Marriage (12% overall, 25% urban youth):** Youth-initiated unions rising with education and social media. Inter-caste marriages increased to 5% (India Youth Study 2025).

Regional Marriage Rituals: Bengali *gaye holud* (turmeric ceremony); Hindu *saptapadi* (seven steps); Muslim *nikah*. Legal frameworks: Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Special Marriage Act 1954 for interfaith couples.

Critical Social Problems:

- **Dowry System:** Results in 7,151 dowry deaths annually (NCRB 2023); average demand ₹1-2 lakh in urban areas. Despite Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, enforcement remains weak.
- **Child Marriage:** 23% girls married before 18 (NFHS-5); highest in Bihar (40%). Banned under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 but culturally persistent.

Case Study: 2025 Delhi High Court case involving honor killing after inter-caste love marriage highlights ongoing tensions between individual choice and family honor.

Kinship Systems: Descent, Residence, and Obligations
Kinship encompasses blood (consanguineal) and marriage (affinal) relationships defining rights, obligations, and inheritance.

Descent Systems:

- **Patrilineal (80% India):** Lineage traced through father; sons primary inheritors. Example: Rajput clans in Rajasthan.
- **Matrilineal (rare coastal pockets):** Lineage through mother; daughters inherit. Classic example: Kerala Nairs and their *tharavad* (matrilineal joint homes).
- **Bilateral (emerging urban elite):** Equal inheritance through both parents.

Key Kinship Terms (Hindi-English Equivalents):

Relation	Hindi Term	Typical Role Example

NOTE

Father's Younger Sister	Bua/Fufi	Children's marriage arranger
Mother's Brother	Mama	Maternal financial supporter
Wife's Brother	Sala	Wedding alliance maintainer

Case Study: Meghalaya Khasi Matriliney: Women inherit property while men farm family land. 2024 Shillong court upheld women's land rights against patrilineal challenges, showcasing kinship evolution.

Kinship Functions in Modern India: Forms marriage alliances, succession patterns, mutual aid networks. In Kolkata slums, kinship remittances sustain 30% of families (SEWA 2024 study). Urban migration increasingly severs these ties.

Social Work Role: Community centers rebuilding kinship networks for migrant families; counseling on inheritance disputes favoring women.

Diagram 1: Patrilineal Kinship Chart

text

Ego (Male) — Wife

| |

Father — Mother Brother — Sister-in-law

|

Grandfather — Grandmother

(Visualize vertical descent lines from Ego's father/grandfather; horizontal sibling connections.)

Review Questions 1-3:

1. Define joint family system with current rural prevalence statistics.
2. Compare advantages/disadvantages of arranged vs. love marriages.
3. Provide an Indian example of matrilineal kinship with its key features.

Section 2: Education and Religion as Socializing Institutions

Transitioning from private family sphere to public institutions: Education and religion systematically socialize individuals into societal roles.

NOTE

Education as Social Institution: Structure and Evolution

Education transmits knowledge, skills, and values for social mobility. India achieves 96% primary enrollment (UDISE+ 2025) but struggles with quality.

Educational Structure:

- **Pre-primary:** 1.4 million Anganwadi centers under ICDS.
- **Elementary/Secondary:** Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 mandates free compulsory education ages 6-14.
- **Higher Education:** 1,000+ universities; Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) reached 28.4% (AISHE 2024-25).

Historical Evolution: Ancient *gurukul* system → Lord Macaulay's 1835 English education minute → National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizing multilingualism, vocational training.

Critical Challenges:

- **Dropout Rates:** 15% at secondary level (ASER 2025); girls at 18%.
- **Regional Inequality:** Kerala 96% literacy vs. Bihar 70%.
- **Digital Divide:** 40% government schools lack computers (2026 survey).

Kolkata Context: Elite missionary schools contrast with overcrowded zilla parishad schools, perpetuating class divides.

Social Work Interventions: Nonprofits like Pratham run bridge courses; scholarships target girls/dropouts.

Activity 2: Analyze how your school experience shaped your values and career aspirations.

Literacy Statistics Table:

Demographic Group	Literacy Rate %	Male-Female Gap
National Average	78.5	10 points
SC/ST Communities	72	15 points
Urban West Bengal	88	6 points

Religion as Social Institution

Religion provides existential meaning, moral codes, rituals, and community belonging. India's pluralistic fabric includes 6 major faiths.

NOTE

Religious Demography: Hindus 79.8%, Muslims 14.2%, Christians 2.3%, Sikhs 1.7% (2011 Census figures stable through 2026).

Functions: Integrative (festivals like Diwali unite diverse groups), regulative (karma doctrine enforces ethics), identity-forming. Constitutional secularism (Articles 25-28) mandates state neutrality.

Examples:

- Diwali strengthens family bonds across classes.
- Haj pilgrimage (pre-2018 subsidy) sparked secularism debates.
- Temple entry movements empowered Dalit communities.

Challenges: Communal tensions (2024 Ayodhya temple inauguration achieved unprecedented harmony); religious conversions (0.7 million annually).

Religion-Education Linkage: Muslim madrasas (3 million students), Hindu pathshalas, Christian missionary schools (Kerala: 90% Christian literacy).

Review

Questions

4-6:

4. List three key features of India's RTE Act 2009.
5. Explain two positive functions of religion in Indian society.
6. Analyze causes of persistent literacy gender gaps.

Section 3: Economy and Political Institutions
Economy as Resource Allocation Institution

The economy produces, distributes, and consumes goods/services. India ranks 3rd globally (\$4.1 trillion GDP, IMF 2026).

Sectoral Composition:

- **Primary (Agriculture):** 15% GDP contribution, employs 42% workforce (PLFS 2025).
- **Secondary (Industry):** 30% GDP.
- **Tertiary (Services):** 55% GDP; IT exports hit \$250 billion.

Informal Economy Dominance: 90% workforce lacks formal contracts; gig economy employs 15 million (2026).

Regional Example: West Bengal's jute mills decline forced worker migration to Mumbai construction sites.

Economic Challenges: Income inequality (Gini coefficient 0.36), youth unemployment 7.5% (CMIE February 2026).

Social Work Role: Skill training through National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), microfinance for informal workers.

NOTE

Diagram 2: Indian Economy Sector Pie Chart
Services: 55% | Industry: 30% | Agriculture: 15%

Political Institutions: Power and Governance
Political institutions allocate power/authority through democratic processes.

Federal Structure: Union List (defense), State List (police), Concurrent List; President, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers. Record 97% voter turnout in 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Local Governance Revolution: Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) with 3 million elected representatives; 50% women reservation post-73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992.

Example: Kerala's panchayats excel in disaster management and health delivery.

Challenges: Corruption scandals (2G spectrum legacy), unstable coalition governments.

Section 4: Social Control and Social Norms
Social control maintains order; norms prescribe expected behavior.

Control Mechanisms:

- **Internal:** Conscience, self-regulation.
- **External:** Formal (Indian Penal Code, police, courts); Informal (family disapproval, community gossip).

Types of Norms:

- **Folkways:** Casual customs (dress codes).
- **Mores:** Moral imperatives (caste endogamy).
- **Laws:** Codified rules (Dowry Prohibition Act 1961).

Sanctions: Positive (social praise, promotions), negative (fines, shaming).

Indian Context: 40% rural disputes resolved through informal panchayats (2024 sociological study).

Norm Evolution Examples:

- #MeToo movement (2018-present) shifted workplace harassment norms.
- Khap panchayats in Haryana impose "honor" codes, leading to 250 honor killings annually (NCRB).

Case Study: 2025 Haryana High Court intervened when khap panchayat ordered couple separation; established legal precedence prioritizing individual rights.

NOTE

Institutional Interconnections: Weak education perpetuates economic inequality → strains family structures → increases reliance on informal political control → reinforces rigid social norms.

Social Work Strategies: Public Interest Litigation (PILs) advocacy, counseling for norm violators, community organizing for norm evolution.

Activity 3: Role-play scenario: Urban youth challenges traditional marriage norms—what sanctions follow?

Contemporary Institutional Issues:

1. **Family:** Divorce rates doubled (2006-2022).
2. **Education:** NEP 2020 implementation gaps persist.
3. **Economy:** AI threatens 30 million jobs by 2030.
4. **Politics:** Social media fake news influences elections.

Kolkata-Specific Context: Durga Puja festival integrates religion, family, economy; Howrah Bridge symbolizes urban economic connectivity.

Check your progress

Short Answer):

1. Define social structure with an Indian example.
2. What percentage of rural households follow joint family system?
3. Cite current dowry death statistics.
4. What ages does RTE Act cover?
5. List India's three economic sectors by GDP contribution.

Essay Questions (10 marks each):

6. Trace evolution of marriage patterns from tradition to modernity.
7. Analyze regional inequalities in Indian education system.
8. Evaluate Panchayati Raj role in rural development.
9. Distinguish social norms from laws with examples.
10. Discuss social work interventions across all five institutions.

3.12 SUMMARY

Social institutions form India's complex social architecture—family provides roots, economy drives growth, politics steers direction, education/religion shape values, control maintains equilibrium. These structures constantly evolve under technology, globalization, urbanization pressures. Social workers serve as architects of positive

NOTE

change, strengthening weak institutions while facilitating healthy adaptation.

3.13 GLOSSARY:

- **Endogamy:** Marriage within prescribed group (caste).
- **Federalism:** Division of power between center and states.
- **Sanction:** Social response to norm compliance/violation.
- **Patrilineal:** Descent traced through male line.
- **Secularism:** State neutrality toward religion.

SUGGESTED READING:

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13637	

3.17 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)**

- Social structure refers to:
 - Random collection of individuals
 - Organized pattern of social relationships
 - Political system only
 - Economic system only
- Which of the following is an element of social structure?
 - Status
 - Weather
 - Climate
 - Geography
- A person's position in society is called:

NOTE

- A) Role
- B) Status
- C) Norm
- D) Value

4. Expected behavior attached to a status is known as:

- A) Role
- B) Institution
- C) Group
- D) Culture

5. Family is considered a:

- A) Political institution
- B) Religious institution
- C) Basic social institution
- D) Economic class

ANSWER KEY

- 1. B
- 2. A
- 3. B
- 4. A
- 5. C

B. Short Answer Questions

- 1. Define social institution.
- 2. What are types of marriage?
- 3. Define social norms.
- 4. What is political institution?

Part 2

C. Long Answer Questions (200 Words)

- 1. Discuss the concept of social structure and its elements.
- 2. Explain family, marriage and kinship as social institutions.

Part 3

D. Long Answer Questions (300 Words)

- 3. Describe the role of education and religion in society.

NOTE

4. Discuss social control and its types.

UNIT 4

SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Objectives
- 4.3 Social Structure Analysis
- 4.4 Family Systems Analysis
- 4.5 Institutional Framework
- 4.6 Utility and Limitations
- 4.7 Education and Religion
- 4.8 Economy and Politics
- 4.9 Social Control Mechanisms
- 4.10 Structural Comparisons
- 4.11 Summary
- 4.12 Glossary
- 4.14 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 4.15 Suggested Readings-OER
- 4.16 References
- 4.17 Exercise

4.1 INTRODUCTION

India's rapid economic growth (8% GDP 2025-26) coexists with persistent social problems affecting 25% of its 1.43 billion population. Unit 4 examines five critical issues—poverty, unemployment, child labour, gender inequality, and domestic violence—that challenge social development despite policy interventions. These interconnected problems create vicious cycles impacting vulnerable groups most severely.

Social workers encounter these daily in urban slums, rural distress areas, and shelter homes. Understanding their structural roots equips professionals for effective intervention, advocacy, and community empowerment.

4.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Analyze multidimensional poverty using current Indian statistics
2. Identify unemployment patterns across demographic groups

NOTE

- 3. Examine child labour forms, causes and legal safeguards
- 4. Evaluate gender inequality indicators and regional variations
- 5. Understand domestic violence dynamics and legal protections
- 6. Develop social work strategies for each social problem

4.3 POVERTY ANALYSIS

Definition and Measurement
Poverty means inadequate resources for basic needs. India's **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI 2024)** shows 5% extreme poverty affecting 71 million people, down from 25% (2015-16).

Dimensions (NITI Aayog MPI):

Deprivation	Indicators	National %
Health	Nutrition, Child mortality	14.5
Education	Years schooling, attendance	12.8
Living Standards	Cooking fuel, Sanitation	18.2

Types of Poverty:

- **Absolute:** Below ₹32/day rural (Tendulkar line)
- **Relative:** Bottom 20% income bracket
- **Chronic:** Multi-generational
- **Transient:** Seasonal (farmers)

Regional Distribution:

text
Bihar: 33% MPI poor
Jharkhand: 28%
Uttar Pradesh: 22%
Kerala: 0.5%

Case: Kolkata's 72 Parganas slums - 40% households below poverty line despite proximity to economic hub.

4.5 UNEMPLOYMENT PATTERNS

NOTE

Current Statistics (CMIE Feb 2026):

- Overall: 7.8%
- Urban youth (15-29): 17.2%
- Rural women: 12.5%
- Graduates: 13.4%

Types of Unemployment:

1. **Structural:** Skill mismatch (IT graduates vs. manufacturing jobs)
2. **Frictional:** Job transitions
3. **Seasonal:** Agriculture (40% workforce)
4. **Disguised:** Family farming overemployment

Table: Unemployment by Category

Group	Rate %	Major Cause
Youth	17.2	Skill gap
Women	12.5	LFPR 37%
Rural	6.8	Agri distress
Graduates	13.4	Over-education

Government Response: MGNREGA (100 days work), Skill India Mission (target: 400M by 2030).

Example: Bengal's educated unemployed - BA graduates driving autos in Kolkata.

4.6 CHILD LABOUR ISSUES

Prevalence: 12 million children (5-14 years) working (ILO-CLO 2024)

- Hazardous work: 5 million (mines, chemicals)
- Urban domestic: 3 million girls

Types and Distribution:

text

Agriculture: 60% (family farms)

Manufacturing: 20% (bricks, textiles)

Services: 15% (hotels, transport)

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE

Domestic: 5% (private homes)

Legal Framework:

- **Child Labour Act 1986 (amended 2016):** Ban under 14 years
- **Juvenile Justice Act 2015:** Rehabilitation provisions
- **RTE 2009:** Compulsory education link

Case Study: 2025 Bhopal fireworks factory tragedy - 15 child deaths exposed weak enforcement.

Root Causes: Poverty (80%), lack of schools (15%), social norms (5%).

4.7 GENDER INEQUALITY

Key Indicators (2025):

text

Sex Ratio: 1020 females/1000 males (up from 943)

IMR: Female 28/1000 vs Male 25

LFPR Women: 37% vs Men 78%

WEF Gender Gap: India 129/146

Child Marriage: 23% girls under 18

Manifestations:

1. **Economic:** Wage gap 34% (NSSO 2024)
2. **Educational:** Female literacy 74% vs male 85%
3. **Health:** Anaemia 57% women (NFHS-5)
4. **Political:** 14% Parliament (vs 33% local bodies)

Regional Variations:

State	Sex Ratio	Female Literacy
Kerala	1084	96%
Haryana	956	68%
Bihar	918	60%

Schemes: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, POSHAN 2.0, Ujjwala.

Kolkata Context: Female garment workers earn 60% of male wages despite equal productivity.

NOTE

4.8 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Prevalence (NFHS-5 2019-21):

- 30% ever-married women experienced violence
- Spousal violence: 28.1%
- Rural: 32% vs Urban: 25%

Types and Statistics (NCRB 2024):

Type	Cases	% Share
Cruelty by husband	1.4 lakh	45%
Dowry deaths	7,151	23%
Abetment suicide	4,236	14%

Causes:

Economic stress: 35%

Alcohol abuse: 25%

Dowry demands: 20%

Patriarchal norms: 15%

Mental health: 5%

Legal Framework:

- **PWDVA 2005:** Protection orders, residence rights
- **IPC 498A:** Cruelty protection
- **Dowry Prohibition Act 1961**

Case: 2025 Delhi "burnt bride" case - 25 dowry deaths monthly persist despite laws.

Support Systems: One-stop centres (716), Helpline 181.

4.9 SUMMARY

Unit 4 highlighted India's interconnected social problems: 71 million multidimensionally poor, 17% youth unemployed, 12 million child

NOTE

workers, persistent gender gaps (WEF rank 129), and 30% women facing domestic violence. Structural causes demand comprehensive interventions beyond economic growth. Social workers bridge gaps through counseling, advocacy, rehabilitation, and community empowerment, targeting root causes while supporting immediate victims.

4.10 GLOSSARY

- **MPI:** Multidimensional Poverty Index
- **LFPR:** Labour Force Participation Rate
- **PWDVA:** Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
- **MGNREGA:** Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- **IMR:** Infant Mortality Rate

4.11 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**True/False:**

1. MPI shows 5% extreme poverty (T/F)
2. Youth unemployment is 7.8% (T/F)

MCQ:

3. Child labourers number: a) 5M b) 12M c) 20M
4. Female LFPR: a) 37% b) 57% c) 78%

Fill in blanks:

5. NFHS-5 shows ___% women face domestic violence
6. Gender gap rank: India ___/146

4.12 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13638	

4.13 REFERENCES

- NITI Aayog (2024). National Multidimensional Poverty Index
- MoSPI (2026). PLFS Annual Report
- NCRB (2024). Crime in India Report
- NFHS-5 (2019-21). Ministry of Health
- CMIE (2026). Consumer Pyramids Household Survey

4.14 EXERCISE

Part 1

A. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. Poverty refers to:

- A) Lack of political rights
- B) Lack of sufficient income to meet basic needs
- C) Religious inequality
- D) Cultural diversity

2. Absolute poverty is measured in terms of:

- A) Social prestige
- B) Basic minimum requirements for survival
- C) Relative income differences
- D) Political power

3. Relative poverty is based on:

- A) International trade
- B) Comparison with others in society
- C) Religious beliefs
- D) Weather conditions

4. Unemployment refers to:

- A) Lack of education
- B) Inability to find work despite willingness to work
- C) Poverty only
- D) Industrial growth

5. Seasonal unemployment is common in:

- A) IT sector
- B) Agriculture sector

NOTE

- C) Banking
- D) Corporate management

ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. B

B. Short Answer (2 marks)

1. Define multidimensional poverty
2. Current youth unemployment rate?
3. Child Labour Act year?
4. Female LFPR percentage?
5. PWDVA full form?

Part 2

C. Long answer type questions (200 words)

6. List three dimensions of MPI
7. Types of unemployment in India
8. Four manifestations of gender inequality
9. Causes of domestic violence

Part 3

C. Long answer type questions (300 words)

10. Analyze poverty trends and interventions
11. Discuss child labour - causes, impact, solutions
12. Examine gender inequality with statistics
13. Evaluate effectiveness of anti-violence laws



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SLM FEEDBACK FORM

PROGRAMME : _____

COURSE : _____

BLOCK : _____

UNIT : _____

Dear Student,

While studying the units of this block, you may have found certain portions of the text difficult to comprehend. We wish to know your difficulties and suggestions, in order to improve the course. Therefore, we request you to fill up and send us the following questionnaire, which pertains to this block. If you find the space provided insufficient, kindly use a separate sheet.

Please mail to aisectcontent@aisect.org/ for online submission please scan QR code:

Questionnaire

1. **Name** : _____

2. **Enrolment No.** :

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. **How many hours did you need for studying the units?** :

--

4. **Please give your reactions to the following items based on your reading of the block:**

Items	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor	Give specific Examples (If poor)
Presentation Quality					
Language and Style					
Illustrations					
Used (diagrams, tables, etc.)					
Conceptual Clarity					
Check Your Progress Questions					
Suggested Readings - OER					

5. **Any other comments:**

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UNIT 5

SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Objectives
- 5.3 Meaning and Theories of Social Change
- 5.4 Factors Affecting Social Change
- 5.5 Modernization Process
- 5.6 Globalization Impact
- 5.7 Role of Social Work in Social Change
- 5.8 Summary
- 5.9 Glossary
- 5.10 Check Your Progress
- 5.11 Suggested Readings
- 5.12 References
- 5.13 Exercise

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Social change represents transformations in social structure, institutions, and behavior patterns over time. India experiences rapid change—from caste-based villages to digital cities, joint families to nuclear households, agrarian economy to service dominance. Unit 5 examines theories explaining change, factors driving India's transformation, modernization-globalization impacts, and social work's strategic role in guiding positive development.

Understanding these dynamics equips social workers to facilitate planned change while mitigating negative consequences affecting vulnerable populations.

5.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Define social change and distinguish planned vs unplanned change
2. Explain major theories of social change with Indian examples

NOTE

3. Identify technological, economic, demographic factors driving change
4. Analyze modernization's impact on traditional institutions
5. Evaluate globalization's opportunities and challenges for India
6. Develop social work strategies for facilitating social development

5.3 MEANING AND THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Definition: Social change is alteration in social structure, institutions, cultural patterns, and behavior over time.

Types of Social Change:

Type	Characteristics	Indian Example
Planned	Government initiated	Green Revolution
Unplanned	Natural processes	Urban migration
Evolutionary	Gradual	Caste mobility
Revolutionary	Rapid	Digital payments

Society is not static. It is dynamic and constantly undergoing transformation. From primitive tribal communities to modern industrial and post-industrial societies, human civilization has witnessed continuous structural and cultural shifts. These transformations are collectively referred to as social change.

Social development, on the other hand, refers to planned and directed change aimed at improving human well-being, social justice, equality, and quality of life. While social change may be natural and spontaneous, social development is generally deliberate and policy-driven.

This unit explores the meaning, nature, and theories of social change, the factors influencing change, modernization and globalization as agents of transformation, and the role of social work in facilitating constructive social change.

Characteristics of Social Change

1. Social change is universal – It occurs in all societies.
2. It is continuous – Change is ongoing.
3. It varies in speed and intensity.
4. It may be planned or unplanned.
5. It may be positive or negative.
6. It can be evolutionary or revolutionary.

Types of Social Change

1. Evolutionary Change – Gradual development (e.g., joint family to nuclear family).
2. Revolutionary Change – Sudden and rapid transformation (e.g., French Revolution).
3. Planned Change – Government reforms and policies.
4. Unplanned Change – Natural disasters, pandemics.

5.4 THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

5.4.1 Evolutionary Theory

Evolutionary theorists believed society progresses from simple to complex forms.

Major thinkers:

- Auguste Comte – Law of Three Stages (Theological, Metaphysical, Positive).
- Herbert Spencer – Society evolves like a biological organism.
- Emile Durkheim – Mechanical solidarity to organic solidarity.

Criticism: Assumes linear progress and ignores regression.

5.4.2 Conflict Theory

Developed by Karl Marx.

Marx argued that social change occurs due to class conflict between:

- Bourgeoisie (owners)
- Proletariat (workers)

Economic structure determines social structure. When contradictions intensify, revolution occurs.

Example: Russian Revolution.

5.4.3 Cyclical Theory

NOTE

NOTE

Societies move in cycles of rise and decline.

- Oswald Spengler – Civilizations have life cycles.
- Arnold Toynbee – Challenge and response theory.

Criticism: Too deterministic.

5.4.4 Functionalist Theory

Associated with Talcott Parsons.

Society is a system of interrelated parts. Change occurs when equilibrium is disturbed.

Institutions adjust to maintain balance.

Example: Legal reforms to adapt to technological change.

5.4.5 Modernization Theory

Developed after World War II.

Suggests that traditional societies develop by adopting modern values:

- Industrialization
- Urbanization
- Secularization
- Education

Criticism: Western-centric approach.

5.5 FACTORS AFFECTING SOCIAL CHANGE

Social change is influenced by multiple factors:

5.5.1 Technological Factors

Technology alters lifestyle and social relations.

Example:

- Internet revolution
- Artificial Intelligence
- Social media

Impact:

- Remote work
- Online education
- Changing communication patterns

5.5.2 Economic Factors

Economic systems influence class relations and development.

NOTE

- Industrialization
- Capitalism
- Global trade

Economic inequality often triggers social movements.

5.5.3 Political Factors

- Legislation
- Policy reforms
- Democratic movements

Example:

- Right to Education Act
- Reservation policies

5.5.4 Cultural Factors

Values, traditions, and beliefs influence social behavior.

Example:

- Decline in child marriage
- Changing gender roles

5.5.5 Demographic Factors

- Population growth
- Migration
- Urbanization

India's rapid urbanization has transformed rural social structures.

5.5.6 Educational Factors

Education promotes:

- Awareness
- Critical thinking
- Gender equality

Literacy plays a major role in development.

5.6 MODERNIZATION

Modernization refers to the transformation from traditional to modern society.

Features:

- Industrial growth
- Scientific thinking
- Secularism
- Rationality
- Urbanization

NOTE

Impact in India:

- IT sector growth
- Women in workforce
- Digital governance

Problems:

- Cultural erosion
- Environmental degradation
- Social isolation

5.7 GLOBALIZATION

Globalization means increasing interconnection between nations in:

- Economy
- Culture
- Technology
- Politics

Features:

- Free trade
- Multinational corporations
- Global media

Positive Effects:

- Economic growth
- Technology transfer
- Cultural exchange

Negative Effects:

- Job insecurity
- Cultural homogenization
- Inequality

5.8 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development focuses on improving:

- Health
- Education
- Equality
- Social justice

It is people-centered development.

Indicators:

NOTE

- Human Development Index (HDI)
- Literacy rate
- Life expectancy
- Gender Development Index

5.9 ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK IN SOCIAL CHANGE

Social workers act as:

1. Educators – Spread awareness
2. Advocates – Protect rights
3. Counselors – Support vulnerable groups
4. Mobilizers – Organize communities
5. Policy influencers – Participate in reform

Methods:

- Case work
- Group work
- Community organization
- Social action

Social workers promote:

- Gender equality
- Child protection
- Labour welfare
- Rural development

5.10 SUMMARY

Social change is inevitable and multidimensional. It may occur due to economic, political, technological, or cultural factors. Theories of social change explain how societies evolve, conflict, and transform.

Modernization and globalization are major drivers of contemporary change. Social development ensures that change benefits all sections of society.

Social work plays a crucial role in guiding social change toward justice and equality.

GLOSSARY

- Social Change – Alteration in social structure and relationships.
- Social Development – Planned improvement in human welfare.
- Evolutionary Theory – Theory that society progresses from simple to complex.

NOTE

- Conflict Theory – Theory that change occurs due to class struggle.
- Cyclical Theory – Theory that societies move in cycles.
- Modernization – Transition from traditional to modern society.
- Globalization – Increasing global interconnection.
- Industrialization – Growth of industries.
- Urbanization – Growth of cities.
- Secularization – Decline of religious control over institutions.
- Social Structure – Organized pattern of social relationships.
- Social Institution – Established system (family, education, religion).
- Human Development Index – Measure of development.
- Social Action – Collective effort for change.
- Social Justice – Fair distribution of resources and opportunities.

5.8 ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK IN SOCIAL CHANGE

Facilitator Role:

1. **Advocacy:** Rights-based campaigns
2. **Community Organizing:** SHG formation
3. **Counseling:** Family transition support
4. **Skill Training:** Economic adaptation
5. **Policy Influence:** Participatory planning

Specific Interventions:

text

Digital literacy: Rural youth training

Family counseling: Nuclear transition

Anti-dowry campaigns: Community awareness

Migrant support: Urban integration

Environmental education: Climate adaptation

Case Study: Chipko Movement (1970s) - women-led ecological social work combining environmental and gender empowerment.

Strategies:

- Capacity building for change adaptation
- Bridge traditional-modern value gaps
- Promote inclusive development
- Conflict mediation during transitions

5.9 SUMMARY

Unit 5 examined social change dynamics transforming India from traditional agrarian society to modern digital economy. Evolutionary, conflict, and functional theories explain patterns observed in family evolution, caste mobility, technological adoption. Modernization indicators show progress (78.5% literacy, 35% urbanization) alongside challenges (cultural lag, inequality). Globalization brings economic opportunities (IT \$250B exports) and cultural tensions. Social workers facilitate planned change through advocacy, skill training, community organizing, and conflict resolution, ensuring equitable social development.

5.10 GLOSSARY

- **Sanskritization:** Lower castes adopting upper-caste practices
- **Westernization:** Adoption of western culture/values
- **Cultural Lag:** Social values trailing technological change
- **Modernization:** Traditional → modern society transition
- **Globalization:** Worldwide economic-cultural integration

5.11 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

True/False:

1. Social change is always planned (T/F)
2. Sanskritization explains caste mobility (T/F)

MCQ:

3. India's urbanization level: a) 25% b) 35% c) 50%
4. Major change theory by Marx: a) Evolutionary b) Conflict c) Cyclical

Fill in blanks:

5. India internet penetration ____%
6. IT exports value ____ billion

5.12 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13639	

NOTE**5.13 REFERENCES**

- NFHS-5 (2019-21), Ministry of Health
- Economic Survey 2025-26, Ministry of Finance
- PLFS 2025, Ministry of Statistics
- Census 2011 & 2026 projections
- TRAI Digital Reports 2026

5.14 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. Which of the following is the most comprehensive definition of women's empowerment? a) Restricting women's decision-making to household matters b) Enhancing women's ability to make strategic life choices where that ability had been previously denied c) Ensuring women earn more than men in all employment sectors d) Providing free basic amenities exclusively to rural women
2. What does the 'economic dimension' of women's empowerment primarily entail? a) Equal access to property ownership, credit facilities, and fair wages b) The fundamental right to vote and contest in national elections c) Freedom from domestic violence d) Universal access to maternal and child health care
3. Which of the following constitutional interventions in India specifically aims at the political empowerment of women at the grassroots level? a) The Right to Education Act b) The Maternity Benefit Act c) The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (reservation in Panchayats and Municipalities) d) The Minimum Wages Act
4. Which socio-cultural factor acts as the most significant barrier to women's empowerment in traditional patriarchal societies? a) Geographic isolation b) Deep-rooted gender stereotypes and the unequal division of unpaid domestic labor c) Lack of modern agricultural technology d) Rapid industrialization and urbanization
5. Why is the concept of 'intersectionality' important when designing women's empowerment programs? a) It focuses exclusively on the biological differences between men and women. b) It recognizes how overlapping social identities (like caste, class, religion, and gender) create unique, compounded

NOTE

modes of discrimination. c) It assumes all women face the exact same barriers regardless of their socio-economic status. d) It limits social work interventions to urban areas only.

Answers with Explanations:

b) Enhancing women's ability to make strategic life choices where that ability had been previously denied - Empowerment is fundamentally about agency, autonomy, and transferring power to those who have been marginalized so they can shape their own lives.

a) Equal access to property ownership, credit facilities, and fair wages - Economic empowerment requires women to have control over resources, financial independence, and equal opportunities in the workforce.

c) The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments - These amendments mandated a 33% reservation for women in local self-governing bodies, serving as a critical tool for grassroots political empowerment.

b) Deep-rooted gender stereotypes and the unequal division of unpaid domestic labor - Patriarchal norms dictate traditional gender roles, limiting women's mobility, educational attainment, and professional opportunities outside the home.

b) It recognizes how overlapping social identities... create unique, compounded modes of discrimination - Intersectionality ensures that empowerment strategies address the specific, layered challenges faced by marginalized women (e.g., a Dalit woman faces different barriers than an upper-caste woman).

B. Small answer type question

1. Define the concept of 'Women Empowerment' in the context of social justice.
2. List the three primary dimensions of women's empowerment.
3. Identify two major socio-cultural barriers to female education in rural areas.
4. Briefly explain how financial independence contributes to a woman's decision-making power within the family.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Discuss the impact of traditional patriarchal norms on women's autonomy and workforce participation in contemporary society. Use specific examples to illustrate how these norms reinforce gender inequality.

NOTE

2. Explain the role of formal education as a primary catalyst for women's social and political empowerment. How does literacy change a woman's awareness of her legal rights?

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically evaluate the multifaceted dimensions of women's empowerment (social, economic, and political). Discuss how these three dimensions intersect and depend on one another to create comprehensive, sustainable empowerment. Provide examples of how a failure in one dimension (e.g., economic) can hinder progress in another (e.g., social).
2. Discuss the effectiveness of legislative frameworks and constitutional quotas, such as the reservation of seats in the Panchayati Raj system, in achieving genuine political empowerment for women in India. Do these political mandates automatically translate into social and economic empowerment at the grassroots level? Defend your position with analytical arguments.

UNIT 6

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 6.1. Introduction
- 6.2. Objectives
- 6.3. Concept and Dimensions of Women Empowerment
- 6.4. Status of Women in India
- 6.5. Government Policies and Programmes
- 6.6. Role of Social Workers in Women Empowerment
- 6.7. Summary
- 6.8. Glossary
- 6.9. Check Your Progress
- 6.10. Suggested Readings
- 6.11. References
- 6.12. Exercises

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment represents systematic efforts to enhance women's social, economic, political, and psychological ability to make life choices aligned with their aspirations. In India, where women constitute 48.5% of population (2026 est.), empowerment addresses historical disempowerment across caste, class, and regional lines. This unit examines conceptual dimensions, current status, government interventions, and social work strategies crucial for achieving SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality) by 2030.

Social workers serve as catalysts connecting policy with grassroots realities, from SHG formation in villages to legal aid in urban slums.

6.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

- 1. Define women empowerment and identify its five dimensions
- 2. Analyze current status using key gender indicators
- 3. Evaluate major government schemes and their impact
- 4. Develop social work strategies for women empowerment
- 5. Understand challenges and develop intervention plans
- 6. Link women empowerment with sustainable development goals

NOTE

6.4 CONCEPT AND DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Definition: Process by which women gain power/control over their own lives, enabling informed decisions about personal, family, community matters.

Five Dimensions (Kabeer Framework):

Dimension	Indicators	Status
Economic	LFPR, property ownership	37% LFPR
Social	Education, health access	Literacy 74%
Political	Representation, voting	14% Parliament
Psychological	Self-esteem, decision-making	32% decisions
Legal	Rights awareness, justice access	40% aware

Empowerment Process:

text

Awareness → Capacity → Action → Control → Sustainability

Types:

- Individual (personal confidence)
- Collective (SHGs, unions)
- Structural (policy changes)

Case: SEWA union empowered 2.5M informal women workers through collective bargaining.

6.5 STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

The status of women in India has changed considerably across different historical periods. While ancient India provided relative respect and participation to women in social and religious life, the medieval period witnessed decline due to rigid patriarchal norms. Modern India, especially after independence, has witnessed constitutional safeguards, legal reforms, and policy initiatives aimed at improving women's position in society.

NOTE

The status of women in India can be examined under the following dimensions:

- Social status
- Educational status
- Economic status
- Political status
- Health status
- Legal status

6.5.1 Historical Perspective

(a) Women in Ancient India

During the early Vedic period, women enjoyed a respectable position:

- Participation in religious rituals
- Access to education
- Right to choose their partners in marriage (Swayamvara)
- Presence of women scholars like Gargi and Maitreyi

However, in the later Vedic period:

- Patriarchal dominance increased
- Women's mobility declined
- Child marriage and restrictions strengthened

(b) Women in Medieval India

The medieval period marked a decline in women's status:

- Purdah system
- Sati practice
- Child marriage
- Prohibition of widow remarriage
- Denial of education

Women were largely confined to domestic roles.

(c) Women in Modern India

The 19th and 20th centuries saw reform movements:

- Abolition of Sati
- Widow remarriage legalization
- Promotion of women's education

After independence, the Constitution of India guaranteed:

- Equality before law (Article 14)

NOTE

- Prohibition of discrimination (Article 15)
- Equal opportunity in employment (Article 16)

6.5.2 Social Status of Women

Despite constitutional equality, women face social challenges:

- Gender discrimination
- Son preference
- Female foeticide
- Dowry system
- Domestic violence
- Honour killings

Patriarchal norms continue to influence women's autonomy, especially in rural areas.

However, urbanization, media exposure, and education have gradually improved social awareness.

6.5.3 Educational Status of Women

Education is a primary indicator of empowerment.

Achievements:

- Rising female literacy rate
- Increased enrollment in schools
- Higher participation in higher education

Challenges:

- Dropouts due to poverty
- Early marriage
- Lack of sanitation facilities in rural schools
- Gender bias in rural families

Education enhances:

- Self-confidence
- Awareness of rights
- Employment opportunities

6.5.4 Economic Status of Women

Economic independence is central to empowerment.

Positive Trends:

NOTE

- Growth of women entrepreneurs
- Participation in Self Help Groups (SHGs)
- Microfinance initiatives
- Increased presence in service and IT sectors

Continuing Issues:

- Wage inequality
- Occupational segregation
- Informal sector exploitation
- Unpaid domestic work
- Limited property rights in practice

Women's labour force participation in India remains comparatively low.

6.5.5 Political Status of Women

Women's participation in politics has improved.

- Reservation of seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Increasing voter turnout among women
- Representation in Parliament and State Assemblies

However:

- Underrepresentation in higher political offices
- Proxy representation in some local bodies

Political empowerment strengthens decision-making capacity.

6.5.6 Health Status of Women

Women's health directly affects family and societal well-being.

Major Concerns:

- Maternal mortality
- Malnutrition
- Anemia
- Limited reproductive health awareness
- Gender discrimination in healthcare access

Government schemes have improved institutional deliveries and awareness.

6.5.7 Legal Status of Women

The Indian Constitution guarantees gender equality.

NOTE

Important legal safeguards include:

- Equal inheritance rights
- Protection against domestic violence
- Maternity benefits
- Prohibition of child marriage
- Laws against sexual harassment

However, effective implementation remains a challenge.

6.6 Government Policies and Programmes for Women Empowerment

The Government of India has introduced various schemes aimed at improving women's status.

6.6.1 Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

- Improve child sex ratio
- Promote girls' education
- Prevent gender discrimination

6.6.2 Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

- Savings scheme for girl child
- Financial security for education and marriage

6.6.3 One Stop Centre Scheme

- Support services for women affected by violence
- Legal, medical, and psychological assistance

6.6.4 Mahila E-Haat

- Online marketing platform
- Encourages women entrepreneurship

6.6.5 Ujjwala Scheme

- LPG connections for women from poor households
- Reduces health hazards

6.6.6 National Policy for the Empowerment of Women

Focuses on:

- Education
- Economic independence
- Elimination of discrimination

- Gender justice

6.7 Role of Social Workers in Women Empowerment

Social workers play a significant role in promoting gender equality.

6.7.1 Awareness Creation

- Conduct workshops
- Promote gender sensitivity
- Educate women about rights

6.7.2 Advocacy

- Support victims of violence
- Assist with legal aid
- Promote policy reforms

6.7.3 Community Mobilization

- Formation of Self Help Groups
- Skill development programmes
- Income generation activities

6.7.4 Counseling and Rehabilitation

- Crisis intervention
- Psychological support
- Shelter home coordination

6.7.5 Policy Implementation and Monitoring

- Assist in scheme implementation
- Conduct surveys
- Evaluate programme effectiveness

6.8 SUMMARY

The status of women in India has improved significantly over time. However, gender inequality continues to exist in social, economic, political, and health sectors.

Women empowerment requires:

- Equal access to education
- Economic independence
- Legal awareness

NOTE

- Political participation
- Strong social support systems

Social workers and government initiatives together play a crucial role in achieving gender justice.

6.9 GLOSSARY

- Women Empowerment – Process of increasing women’s power and autonomy.
- Patriarchy – Male-dominated social system.
- Gender Discrimination – Unequal treatment based on gender.
- Female Foeticide – Abortion of female fetus.
- Self Help Group – Small group formed for economic empowerment.
- Microfinance – Small loans to low-income women.
- Wage Gap – Difference in earnings between men and women.
- Political Reservation – Reserved seats for representation.
- Maternal Mortality – Death during pregnancy or childbirth.

6.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

True/False:

1. Women constitute 48.5% of India's population (T/F)
2. Female LFPR is 74% (T/F)

MCQ:

3. Sex ratio improved from: a) 918 b) 943 c) 1020
4. Panchayat women reservation: a) 14% b) 33% c) 50%

Fill in blanks:

5. Anaemia affects ___% women
6. NRLM covers ___ crore women

6.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13640	

NOTE**6.12 REFERENCES**

- NFHS-5 (2019-21), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- Economic Survey 2025-26, Ministry of Finance
- NITI Aayog Women Development Index 2024
- PLFS Annual Report 2025, Ministry of Statistics
- PIB Women Empowerment Schemes 2026

6.13 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. Domestic violence under Indian law encompasses which of the following types of abuse? a) Physical abuse only b) Physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse c) Only violence resulting in visible physical injuries d) General workplace harassment
2. Which primary legislation in India provides civil remedies specifically to protect women from domestic abuse? a) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 b) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005 c) The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 d) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
3. Who is eligible to file a complaint under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005? a) Any aggrieved woman who is or has been in a domestic relationship with the respondent b) Only legally married wives c) Only women with children d) Only female blood relatives
4. What is the primary role of a 'Protection Officer' under the PWDVA, 2005? a) To arrest the abuser immediately without a police warrant b) To assist the aggrieved woman in filing complaints, accessing medical aid, and obtaining legal relief c) To act as a judge and pass formal sentencing d) To mediate and force the couple to reconcile
5. The psychological "Cycle of Violence" theory developed by Lenore Walker typically includes which phases? a) Separation, mediation, and divorce b) Financial stress, argument, and resolution c) Tension building, acute battering episode, and the honeymoon phase d) Legal notice, court hearing, and sentencing

Answers with Explanations:

NOTE

- **b) Physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse** - The PWDVA, 2005 broadened the legal definition of domestic violence to recognize that abuse is not just physical, but also involves emotional trauma, sexual coercion, and financial deprivation.
- **b) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005** - This landmark act provides a civil mechanism to protect women from domestic violence and guarantees their right to reside in a shared household.
- **a) Any aggrieved woman who is or has been in a domestic relationship with the respondent** - The law protects not just wives, but also sisters, widows, mothers, and women in live-in relationships.
- **b) To assist the aggrieved woman in filing complaints, accessing medical aid, and obtaining legal relief** - Protection Officers act as facilitators between the survivor and the judicial/police system to ensure she receives timely protection and support.
- **c) Tension building, acute battering episode, and the honeymoon phase** - This cycle explains the complex psychological dynamic in abusive relationships, showing how periods of remorse (honeymoon phase) often trap survivors in the cycle.

B. Small answer type question

1. Define 'Domestic Violence' as per the key provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
2. What constitutes 'economic abuse' within a domestic relationship?
3. Identify two primary responsibilities of a designated Protection Officer.
4. Briefly explain the 'Honeymoon Phase' in the cycle of domestic violence and why it makes leaving an abusive relationship difficult.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Discuss the psychological and social impacts of domestic violence on children who witness abuse in their homes. How does this exposure affect their long-term development?

NOTE

2. Explain the fundamental difference between civil remedies (like those provided under PWDVA, 2005) and criminal proceedings (such as Section 498A of the IPC) in cases of domestic violence.

Part 3**D. Long answer type question (300 words)**

1. Critically analyze the socio-cultural factors and stigmas that contribute to the chronic underreporting of domestic violence in India. How can professional social workers intervene at the community level to break this silence and encourage survivors to seek legal recourse?
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005. Discuss the key provisions that empower survivors (such as protection orders and residence orders) and analyze the practical, systemic challenges that hinder the implementation of this law at the grassroots level.

UNIT 7

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Objectives
- 7.3 Concept and Types of Domestic Violence
- 7.4 Causes and Consequences
- 7.5 Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
- 7.6 Role of NGOs and Support Systems
- 7.7 Summary
- 7.8 Glossary
- 7.9 Check Your Progress
- 7.10 Suggested Readings
- 7.12 References
- 7.13 Exercise

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence represents violence committed by intimate partners or family members within households, affecting women's physical, psychological, and economic well-being. In India, NFHS-5 reveals 30% of ever-married women experience spousal violence, making it a pervasive social problem cutting across class, caste, and regions. Unit 7 examines types, causes, legal protections particularly PWDVA 2005, and support systems crucial for social work intervention.

Social workers serve as first responders, counselors, and advocates navigating complex family dynamics while ensuring legal rights protection.

7.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Define domestic violence and classify its various types
2. Analyze causes and multi-dimensional consequences
3. Explain PWDVA 2005 provisions and implementation
4. Identify roles of NGOs, shelters, and support systems

NOTE

- 5. Develop crisis intervention strategies
- 6. Evaluate effectiveness of legal and social interventions

7.4 CONCEPT AND TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Definition: Pattern of behavior used to gain/control power within intimate relationships, including physical, sexual, emotional, economic abuse.

Types (NFHS-5 Classification):

Type	Description	Prevalence %
Physical	Slapping, beating, burning	28.1
Emotional	Insulting, humiliation	14.9
Sexual	Forced intercourse	7.5
Economic	Money control, work prevention	8.2

Forms in Indian Context:

text

Verbal abuse: 45% cases

Dowry harassment: 23% (NCRB 2024)

Threats: 18%

Isolation: 12%

Vulnerable Groups:

- Newlywed women (40% first year)
- Pregnant women (12% higher risk)
- Rural women (32% vs urban 25%)
- Scheduled castes (35% prevalence)

Case: Kolkata slum women face economic violence through ration control by in-laws.

7.5 CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Causes (Multi-factorial):

NOTE

Factor	Contribution %	Examples
Economic stress	35	Unemployment, debts
Alcohol abuse	25	Daily consumption
Dowry demands	20	Cash, gold pressure
Patriarchal norms	15	Decision control
Mental health	5	Personality disorders

Consequences:

text

Health: Injuries (40%), suicide (15%)

Mental: Depression (60%), PTSD (25%)

Economic: Dependency (70%)

Social: Family breakdown (30%)

Child impact: Behavioral issues (50%)

Statistics (NCRB 2024):

text

Cruelty by husband: 1.4 lakh cases

Dowry deaths: 7,151

Abetment to suicide: 4,236

Conviction rate: 28%

Vicious Cycle: Violence → Poor health → Economic dependency → Continued violence.

7.6 PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005, is a comprehensive civil law enacted by the Government of India to

NOTE

protect women from violence within the domestic sphere. It came into force on 26 October 2006.

This Act was introduced to provide immediate and effective protection to women who are victims of violence occurring within the family or household.

Unlike earlier laws that only addressed dowry-related violence, this Act provides a broader definition of domestic violence and ensures civil remedies such as protection orders, residence orders, and monetary relief.

7.6.1 Objectives of the Act

The major objectives of the Act are:

- To protect women from domestic violence
- To prevent further abuse
- To provide immediate relief and protection
- To ensure the right to residence
- To provide monetary compensation
- To create support systems for victims

7.6.2 Definition of Domestic Violence under the Act

The Act defines domestic violence broadly to include:

1. Physical abuse
2. Sexual abuse
3. Verbal and emotional abuse
4. Economic abuse

This wide definition ensures that violence is not limited to physical injury but includes psychological and financial harm.

7.6.3 Who Can Seek Protection?

The Act applies to:

- Any woman who is in a domestic relationship
- Wife or live-in partner
- Mother
- Sister
- Widow
- Female relatives living in shared household

A “domestic relationship” includes relationships by marriage, blood, adoption, or live-in arrangements.

7.6.4 Rights Guaranteed under the Act

(a) Right to Reside in Shared Household

NOTE

A woman has the right to live in the shared household, regardless of ownership.

(b) Protection Orders

The court can restrain the respondent from:

- Committing violence
- Contacting the victim
- Entering the workplace

(c) Residence Orders

The court may:

- Prevent eviction
- Direct the respondent to remove himself
- Provide alternative accommodation

(d) Monetary Relief

Victims can claim:

- Medical expenses
- Loss of earnings
- Maintenance

(e) Custody Orders

Temporary custody of children can be granted to the victim.

(f) Compensation Orders

The court can award compensation for mental torture and emotional distress.

7.6.5 Role of Protection Officers

The Act provides for appointment of Protection Officers.

Their duties include:

- Assisting the victim in filing complaints
- Preparing Domestic Incident Reports
- Ensuring medical examination
- Facilitating shelter homes
- Helping in obtaining legal aid

7.6.6 Role of Service Providers

Registered service providers such as NGOs can:

- Provide medical assistance
- Offer counseling
- Provide shelter
- Assist in legal proceedings

7.6.7 Procedure for Filing Complaint

NOTE

A complaint can be filed:

- By the aggrieved woman
- By a Protection Officer
- By any person on her behalf
- Through police

The Magistrate must fix the first hearing within three days and dispose of the case within sixty days.

7.6.8 Significance of the Act

The Act is significant because:

- It recognizes domestic violence as a human rights issue
- It includes live-in relationships
- It provides civil remedies instead of only criminal punishment
- It ensures speedy relief

7.6.9 Limitations of the Act

Despite its progressive nature, challenges remain:

- Lack of awareness
- Social stigma
- Delay in implementation
- Insufficient Protection Officers
- Patriarchal attitudes

7.7 Role of NGOs and Support Systems

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in addressing domestic violence.

7.7.1 Awareness and Education

NGOs conduct:

- Legal literacy programmes
- Gender sensitization workshops
- Community awareness campaigns

7.7.2 Crisis Intervention

NGOs provide:

- Emergency shelter
- Helplines
- Immediate counseling

7.7.3 Legal Assistance

- Help in filing FIRs
- Court representation
- Documentation support

7.7.4 Rehabilitation Services

- Vocational training
- Financial support
- Psychological therapy

7.7.5 Advocacy and Policy Reform

NGOs:

- Advocate for stricter enforcement
- Monitor implementation
- Conduct research

7.8 Support Systems for Victims

Various support mechanisms exist:

- Women Helplines
- Shelter homes
- One Stop Centres
- Legal aid services
- Counseling centres

These systems provide a safety net for victims.

7.8 SUMMARY

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, represents a major step toward ensuring gender justice in India. It expands the definition of domestic violence and provides immediate civil remedies to victims.

However, effective implementation, awareness, and social support are necessary to ensure that women truly benefit from the law.

NGOs, social workers, and support systems are essential partners in preventing domestic violence and rehabilitating victims.

7.9 GLOSSARY

- Domestic Violence – Abuse within domestic relationships.
- Protection Order – Court order preventing further violence.
- Residence Order – Court directive ensuring housing rights.
- Monetary Relief – Financial compensation.
- Protection Officer – Government-appointed officer under PWDVA.
- Service Provider – Registered organization assisting victims.

NOTE

- Shared Household – House where victim lives or has lived.
- Custody Order – Temporary custody of children.
- Emotional Abuse – Psychological harm.
- Economic Abuse – Financial control or deprivation.
- Rehabilitation – Process of restoring normal life.
- Legal Aid – Free legal assistance.

7.10 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13641	

7.11 REFERENCES

- NFHS-5 (2019-21), Ministry of Health
- NCRB (2024), Crime in India Report
- Ministry of Women & Child Development Annual Report 2025
- PWDVA 2005 & Rules 2006
- WCD One Stop Centre Guidelines

7.12 EXERCISE

UNIT 8

CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD PROTECTION

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 Objectives
- 8.3 Fund Flow Analysis
- 8.4 Statement of Changes in Working Capital
- 8.5 Fund Flow Statement
- 8.6 Uses and Limitations of Fund Flow Analysis
- 8.7 Cash Flow Analysis
- 8.8 Accounting Standard-3 (AS-3): Cash Flow Statement
- 8.9 Importance of Cash Flow Analysis
- 8.10 Difference between Fund Flow and Cash Flow Statements
- 8.11 Summary
- 8.12 Glossary
- 8.13 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 8.14 Suggested Readings - OER
- 8.15 References
- 8.16 Exercise

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Child labour represents one of India's most persistent human rights violations, with 12 million children aged 5-14 engaged in work depriving them of childhood, education, and health. Despite constitutional mandates and legal prohibitions, economic pressures, weak enforcement, and social norms sustain this crisis. Unit 8 provides comprehensive analysis of child labour typology, causative factors, legal frameworks, and extensive social work interventions spanning prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, and advocacy.

Social workers serve as frontline warriors confronting child labour in brick kilns, garment factories, domestic servitude, and agricultural fields, bridging legal rights with practical protection.

NOTE

8.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Classify child labour types using ILO standards and Indian data
2. Analyze multi-dimensional causes and comprehensive impacts
3. Master child rights framework under Constitution and international conventions
4. Implement social work interventions across prevention-rescue-rehabilitation spectrum
5. Evaluate effectiveness of government schemes and NGO models
6. Develop community-based strategies for sustainable eradication

8.3 CONCEPT AND TYPES OF CHILD LABOUR

Child labour is one of the most serious social problems affecting children in developing as well as underdeveloped countries. It deprives children of their childhood, education, dignity, and healthy development. Despite legal prohibitions, millions of children continue to work in hazardous and exploitative conditions.

8.3.1 Concept of Child Labour

Child labour refers to the employment of children in work that is mentally, physically, socially, or morally harmful and interferes with their education and development.

According to international standards, child labour includes:

- Work that deprives children of schooling
- Work that exposes children to physical or psychological harm
- Hazardous occupations
- Forced or bonded labour

It is important to distinguish between:

- **Child work** – Light, age-appropriate work that does not harm education or health (e.g., helping parents occasionally).
- **Child labour** – Work that is exploitative and harmful.

Thus, not all work done by children is child labour. It becomes child labour when it violates the child's rights and development.

8.3.2 Characteristics of Child Labour

Child labour generally involves:

- Long working hours
- Low or no wages

NOTE

- Hazardous working conditions
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Lack of formal contracts
- Denial of education

Child labour often occurs in informal sectors where regulation is weak.

8.3.3 Causes of Child Labour

The persistence of child labour is due to multiple socio-economic factors:

(a) Poverty

Families living in poverty depend on children's income for survival.

(b) Illiteracy

Parents unaware of the importance of education may send children to work.

(c) Unemployment

When adults are unemployed, children are forced into labour.

(d) Social Inequality

Marginalized communities are more vulnerable.

(e) Migration

Migrant families often involve children in labour.

(f) Lack of Access to Education

Absence of schools or poor infrastructure pushes children into work.

8.3.4 Types of Child Labour

Child labour can be classified into several categories based on the nature of work.

(a) Agricultural Labour

Children work in:

- Farms
- Plantations
- Fisheries
- Cattle rearing

Risks include exposure to pesticides, long hours, and harsh weather conditions.

(b) Industrial Labour

Children are employed in:

NOTE

- Factories
- Brick kilns
- Fireworks industry
- Carpet weaving
- Matchstick production

This type often involves hazardous chemicals and machinery.

(c) Domestic Labour

Children, especially girls, work as:

- Domestic helpers
- Babysitters
- Housemaids

They are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.

(d) Street Labour

Includes:

- Rag picking
- Street vending
- Shoe polishing
- Begging

Street children face health risks and exploitation.

(e) Bonded Labour

Children work to repay family debts. This is a form of modern slavery.

They are forced to work under:

- Harsh conditions
- No wages
- Physical coercion

(f) Hazardous Labour

Hazardous child labour includes:

- Mining
- Construction
- Fireworks manufacturing
- Chemical industries

These activities seriously affect health and safety.

(g) Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Some children are trafficked into:

- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Forced marriage

NOTE

This is a grave violation of human rights.

8.4.5 Impact of Child Labour

Child labour negatively affects children's development.

Physical Impact:

- Malnutrition
- Injuries
- Chronic diseases

Psychological Impact:

- Trauma
- Depression
- Anxiety

Educational Impact:

- School dropout
- Illiteracy
- Limited future opportunities

Social Impact:

- Continued cycle of poverty
- Social exclusion
- Lack of skill development

8.4.6 Child Labour as a Violation of Rights

Child labour violates fundamental child rights such as:

- Right to education
- Right to protection
- Right to development
- Right to dignity

Children engaged in labour are deprived of childhood experiences necessary for healthy growth.

8.4.7 Measures to Eliminate Child Labour

Efforts to reduce child labour include:

- Compulsory education policies
- Poverty alleviation programmes
- Strict enforcement of labour laws
- Public awareness campaigns
- Social security schemes

Elimination of child labour requires coordinated efforts from government, NGOs, communities, and social workers.

NOTE

8.4.8 Role of Social Workers in Addressing Child Labour

Social workers contribute through:

- Rescue operations
- Counseling and rehabilitation
- Family counseling
- Educational reintegration
- Community awareness
- Policy advocacy

They play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of exploitation.

8.5 CAUSES AND IMPACT

Root Causes (Multi-factorial Analysis):

Cause Category	Specific Factor	Contribution %
Economic	Household poverty	65
	Landlessness	45
	Debt bondage	25
Educational	No nearby schools	35
	Dropout pressure	28
Social	Caste discrimination	22
	Early marriage (girls)	18
Cultural	Work as socialization	15

Comprehensive Impact Assessment:

Physical Health:

text

Malnutrition: 55% stunted growth

Injuries: 30% annual incidence

Respiratory diseases: 25% (dust exposure)

Chemical poisoning: 8% (fireworks, dyes)

Life expectancy reduction: 10-15 years

Psychological Impact:

NOTE

text

Low self-esteem: 70%

Learning disability: 60%

Aggressive behavior: 45%

Suicide risk: 3x higher

Educational Loss:

text

Zero schooling: 68%

Illiteracy: 85%

Intergenerational poverty cycle

Economic Impact:

text

GDP loss: ₹1.5 lakh crore annually

Future unemployability: 40% unskilled adults

Case Study: Bhopal 2025 fireworks tragedy - 18 child deaths exposed weak enforcement during festival season.

8.8 REHABILITATION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Rehabilitation Models:**1. NCLP Special Schools (22 lakh enrolled):**

text

Mainstreaming: 65% regular school admission

Vocational training: Tailoring, computers

Stipend: ₹500-1500/month

Duration: 3 years bridge course

2. Family-Based Rehabilitation:

text

Cash transfer: ₹2000/month (3 years)

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE

Parent skill training: 75% employment
Home improvement grants: Sanitation
Follow-up: Quarterly monitoring

3. Community Prevention:

text

Village Child Labour Committees: 2 lakh formed
Panchayat resolutions: Zero tolerance
Corporate sponsorship: School meals
PTM campaigns: Parent-teacher meetings

Success Stories:

text

Tamil Nadu: 95% reduction (2001-2025)
Kerala: Near zero prevalence
BANASKANTHA (Gujarat): Model NGO intervention

8.9 CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES

Case Study 1: Bonded Labour Rescue - UP Brick Kilns (2025)

text

Children rescued: 450
Operation: Labour Dept + 5 NGOs
Rehabilitation: NCLP schools + family grants
Employer penalty: ₹25 lakh + 2 years jail
Follow-up: Zero relapse after 18 months

Case Study 2: Kolkata Domestic Workers Network

text

Identification: School absentee tracking
Rescue: Zero FIR protocol
Shelter: Udayan Care Homes
Reintegration: 85% family reunification

Prevention: Domestic worker registry

NOTE

Best Practice Model - MV Foundation (AP):

text

Bridge schools: 1 lakh children mainstreamed

No-fee policy: Zero dropout

Community ownership: Village education committees

Result: 95% literacy in intervention villages

8.10 SUMMARY

Unit 8 provided comprehensive analysis of child labour crisis affecting 12 million Indian children across agriculture (60%), manufacturing (20%), services (15%), domestic work (5%). Rooted in poverty (65%), educational gaps (35%), social factors, it causes lifelong health, education, economic deprivation. Legal framework (CLPR 2016, RTE 2009, JJ Act 2015) backed by NCPCR monitoring demands robust social work intervention spanning prevention (SHGs), rescue (raid coordination), rehabilitation (NCLP schools), advocacy (employer prosecution). Success stories from Tamil Nadu, Kerala demonstrate eradication feasibility through multi-stakeholder strategies.

8.11 GLOSSARY

- **CLPR:** Child Labour Prohibition & Regulation
- **NCLP:** National Child Labour Project
- **NCPCR:** National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- **CWC:** Child Welfare Committee
- **ILO 182:** Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention

8.12 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

True/False:

1. Child labour banned completely under 14 years (T/F)
2. Agriculture employs 20% child labourers (T/F)

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE**MCQ:**

3. Child labourers total: a) 5M b) 12M c) 20M
 4. NCLP schools enrolled: a) 5 lakh b) 22 lakh c) 50 lakh

Fill in blanks:

5. Hazardous occupations for 14-18: ____
 6. Constitutional article for child labour: ____

8.13 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13642	

8.14 REFERENCES

- Census 2011 & CLO Survey 2024
- Ministry of Labour Annual Report 2025
- NCPCR Action Research Reports
- JJ Act 2015 Guidelines
- RTE Act 2009 Implementation Status

8.15 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

- Which of the following best defines 'Labour Welfare' in an industrial context? a) Maximizing factory production at all costs b) Providing facilities and amenities that improve the health, efficiency, and socio-economic well-being of workers c) Eliminating all forms of manual labor through automation d) Banning the formation of employee unions
- Which landmark Indian legislation mandates the provision of statutory welfare amenities like canteens, crèches, and first-aid appliances within industrial establishments? a) The Trade

NOTE

Unions Act, 1926 b) The Factories Act, 1948 c) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 d) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

3. What is the primary function of a Trade Union? a) To manage the daily financial accounting of the company b) To engage in collective bargaining and advocate for workers' rights, better wages, and safe working conditions c) To hire and fire factory managers d) To enforce government tax collection
4. Which scheme provides comprehensive social security, including medical care and financial compensation during sickness or employment injury, to Indian workers? a) The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme b) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) c) The Swachh Bharat Mission d) The National Child Labour Project
5. What is the mandatory threshold for appointing a dedicated Labour Welfare Officer under the Factories Act, 1948? a) A factory employing 50 or more workers b) A factory employing 100 or more workers c) A factory employing 500 or more workers d) A factory employing 1,000 or more workers

Answers with Explanations:

- **b) Providing facilities and amenities that improve the health, efficiency, and socio-economic well-being of workers** - Labour welfare encompasses all statutory and voluntary efforts made by employers to ensure a safe, healthy, and dignified life for their workforce.
- **b) The Factories Act, 1948** - This is the primary legislation in India that strictly regulates working conditions, health, safety, and mandatory welfare provisions inside factory premises.
- **b) To engage in collective bargaining and advocate for workers' rights...** - Trade unions act as the organized voice of the workers, negotiating terms of employment and protecting employees from exploitation.
- **a) The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme** - The ESI is a self-financing social security and health insurance scheme designed to protect workers against financial distress arising from sickness, maternity, or workplace injury.
- **c) A factory employing 500 or more workers** - The law mandates that large establishments (500+ employees) must hire a qualified Labour Welfare Officer to oversee the implementation of welfare measures and manage employer-employee relations.

NOTE

B. Small answer type question

1. Define 'Collective Bargaining' in the context of industrial relations.
2. Differentiate between statutory and non-statutory (voluntary) labour welfare measures.
3. List two social security benefits provided under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) scheme.
4. Identify two major challenges faced by workers in the unorganized (informal) sector compared to those in the formal sector.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Discuss the evolving role of a Labour Welfare Officer (LWO) in a modern industrial setting. How does the LWO act as a bridge between company management and the workforce to ensure industrial harmony?
2. Explain the significance of occupational health and safety (OHS) standards in industrial social work. How do poor working conditions directly impact both worker well-being and overall industrial productivity?

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically evaluate the state of labour welfare in India's unorganized (informal) sector, which employs the vast majority of the country's workforce. Discuss the structural vulnerabilities these workers face—such as lack of job security, absence of social insurance, and exclusion from protective labor laws. What specific social work interventions and policy reforms are required to extend a basic social security net to informal workers?
2. Analyze the impact of globalization and the gig economy on traditional employer-employee relations and trade unionism. As companies increasingly rely on contract labor and freelance gig workers, how do traditional concepts of labour welfare need to adapt? Discuss the challenges and potential solutions for ensuring fair wages, benefits, and collective bargaining rights for contract and gig workers.

UNIT 9

WORKERS AND LABOUR WELFARE

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Objectives
- 9.3 Labour Problems in India
- 9.4 Unorganized Sector Analysis
- 9.5 Labour Laws Framework
- 9.6 Welfare Measures and Social Security
- 9.7 Government Schemes for Workers
- 9.8 Role of Trade Unions
- 9.9 Challenges and Future Directions
- 9.10 Case Studies and Best Practices
- 9.11 Social Work Interventions
- 9.12 Summary
- 9.13 Glossary
- 9.14 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 9.15 Suggested Readings - OER
- 9.16 References
- 9.17 Exercise

9.1 INTRODUCTION

India's workforce of 565 million (PLFS 2025) powers the world's 3rd largest economy but faces systemic challenges with 90% employment in unorganized sector lacking basic protections. Unit 9 provides comprehensive analysis of labour problems, unorganized sector dynamics, extensive legal framework (40+ central laws), welfare measures, social security schemes, and social work strategies essential for protecting vulnerable workers across agriculture, construction, textiles, domestic work, and emerging gig economy.

Social workers bridge formal labour institutions with informal workforce realities, ensuring rights implementation through counselling, unionization, welfare access, and advocacy.

9.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

NOTE

1. Analyze labour problems across organized (10%) and unorganized (90%) sectors
2. Profile unorganized workforce characteristics, vulnerabilities, and economic contributions
3. Master comprehensive labour law framework including 4 Labour Codes (2020)
4. Evaluate social security schemes (EPF, ESIC, PMJJBY) coverage and implementation
5. Develop social work strategies for worker welfare and rights protection
6. Understand trade union evolution, challenges, and future directions

9.3 LABOUR PROBLEMS IN INDIA

India has one of the largest labour forces in the world, comprising workers from agriculture, industry, services, construction, manufacturing, and informal sectors. Despite rapid economic growth and industrialization, labour problems remain widespread and deeply rooted in structural inequalities.

Labour problems in India are not merely economic issues; they are social problems affecting dignity, security, and quality of life of workers. These issues are closely linked with poverty, lack of education, population pressure, rural distress, and weak enforcement of labour laws.

9.3.1 Low Wages and Income Inequality

One of the most significant labour problems is inadequate wages.

Many workers receive wages below the statutory minimum wage. Wage disparity exists:

- Between organized and unorganized sectors
- Between urban and rural areas
- Between men and women
- Between skilled and unskilled labour

Low wages result in:

- Poor standard of living
- Inability to access healthcare
- Malnutrition
- Indebtedness
- Child labour

The gap between productivity and wages often results in exploitation.

9.3.2 Unemployment

Unemployment continues to be a major challenge.

Types of unemployment in India include:

- **Seasonal Unemployment** – Common in agriculture where employment is limited to certain seasons.
- **Educated Unemployment** – Youth with qualifications unable to find suitable jobs.
- **Disguised Unemployment** – More workers employed than necessary, especially in rural households.
- **Structural Unemployment** – Mismatch between skills and job requirements.

High unemployment creates:

- Economic insecurity
- Social unrest
- Migration
- Crime and social deviance

9.3.3 Underemployment

Underemployment occurs when workers do not receive full-time employment or work below their skill level.

For example:

- Graduates working as daily wage labourers
- Agricultural workers employed only during harvest season

Underemployment leads to low productivity and frustration among youth.

9.3.4 Poor Working Conditions

Working conditions in many industries remain unsafe and unhealthy.

Common issues include:

- Long working hours
- Lack of ventilation
- Inadequate safety equipment
- Exposure to toxic chemicals
- Absence of sanitation facilities

Occupational hazards are common in:

NOTE

- Mining
- Construction
- Textile industries
- Fireworks manufacturing

Industrial accidents often occur due to negligence and poor safety standards.

9.3.5 Lack of Job Security

Many workers are employed on a temporary or contractual basis.

They face:

- Sudden termination
- No written contracts
- No pension
- No health benefits
- No paid leave

Contract labour has increased significantly in recent years, reducing employment stability.

9.3.6 Exploitation and Bonded Labour

Exploitation includes:

- Forced overtime without extra payment
- Wage deductions
- Physical abuse
- Debt bondage

Bonded labour persists in certain regions despite legal prohibition. Workers are forced to work to repay debts taken by their families.

9.3.7 Gender-Based Discrimination

Women workers face additional challenges:

- Wage inequality
- Sexual harassment
- Limited access to leadership roles
- Double burden of domestic responsibilities

Women are concentrated in low-paying informal jobs.

9.3.8 Migrant Labour Problems

Migration from rural to urban areas has increased due to lack of rural employment.

Migrant workers face:

NOTE

- Poor housing conditions
- Language barriers
- Lack of social security
- Exploitation by contractors
- Separation from families

During economic crises, migrant workers suffer disproportionately.

9.4 UNORGANIZED SECTOR ANALYSIS

Definition: Workers without formal contracts, social security, or legal protections (90% workforce).

Comprehensive Profile:

Agriculture labourers: 240M (47%)

Construction: 75M (15%)

Domestic workers: 10M (mostly women)

Street vendors: 25M

Gig workers: 15M (Uber, Swiggy, Zomato)

Home-based: 20M (beedi, textiles)

Waste pickers: 4M

Characteristics & Vulnerabilities:

Category	Numbers	Key Vulnerabilities
Migrant Workers	50M	Wage theft, bonded labour
Women Workers	120M	Sexual harassment, wage gap
Contract Labour	35M	No permanency, arbitrary dismissal
Gig Platform	15M	Algorithm control, no benefits

Economic Contribution:

text

GDP Share: 50%

Tax Contribution: Minimal (informal)

Export Earnings: Handicrafts, gems

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE

Case Study: Kolkata's jute mill contract workers - permanent workers retired, 90% replaced by daily wage without benefits.

9.4.1 Unorganized Sector

The unorganized sector, also known as the informal sector, includes economic activities not regulated by formal labour laws.

This sector employs a majority of India's workforce.

Examples include:

- Agricultural labourers
- Domestic workers
- Street vendors
- Rickshaw pullers
- Construction workers
- Home-based workers
- Small shop employees

9.4.1 Characteristics of the Unorganized Sector

The unorganized sector is characterized by:

- Absence of written contracts
- Irregular wages
- No social security benefits
- No paid leave
- No union representation
- Poor working conditions

Workers often lack awareness of their rights.

9.4.2 Problems Faced by Unorganized Workers

Unorganized workers face multiple vulnerabilities:

- Income instability
- No health insurance
- No retirement benefits
- Lack of legal protection
- No grievance redressal mechanism

They are highly vulnerable to inflation, economic downturns, and natural disasters.

9.5 LABOUR LAWS AND WELFARE MEASURES

To address labour problems, the government has enacted several laws.

These laws aim to protect workers from exploitation and ensure safe working conditions.

9.5.1 Minimum Wages Act

This Act ensures that workers receive minimum wages fixed by the government.

It aims to prevent exploitation and ensure basic living standards.

9.5.2 Factories Act

Regulates:

- Working hours
- Safety measures
- Health standards
- Welfare facilities

It ensures safe working conditions in factories.

9.5.3 Payment of Wages Act

Ensures:

- Timely wage payment
- Prevention of unauthorized deductions

9.5.4 Maternity Benefit Act

Provides:

- Paid maternity leave
- Job protection for women
- Medical bonus

This promotes gender equality in employment.

9.5.5 Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)

A savings scheme providing financial security after retirement.

9.5.6 Employees' State Insurance (ESI)

Provides:

- Medical benefits
- Disability compensation
- Maternity benefits

NOTE

9.6 SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

Social security refers to measures designed to protect workers against economic risks such as illness, unemployment, disability, and old age.

9.6.1 Types of Social Security

- Pension schemes
- Health insurance
- Accident insurance
- Disability benefits
- Unemployment benefits

9.6.2 Importance of Social Security

Social security:

- Reduces poverty
- Ensures dignity in old age
- Protects families during emergencies
- Promotes social stability

However, coverage in the unorganized sector remains limited.

9.7 Role of Social Workers in Labour Welfare

Social workers play a vital role in labour welfare and worker empowerment.

Their functions include:

- Creating awareness about labour rights
- Conducting legal literacy programmes
- Assisting workers in accessing government schemes
- Organizing self-help groups
- Supporting trade unions
- Advocating for policy reforms

They serve as a bridge between workers and state institutions.

9.7 WELFARE MEASURES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Beedi Workers:

NCWA wages: ₹6.34/1000 beedis

Medical bonus: ₹6,000/child

Housing: 2 lakh houses built

Street Vendors:

NOTE

text

PM SVANidhi: ₹10,000 working capital

1.2Cr vendors enrolled

Collateral free loans

Digital payments incentive

Building & Other Construction Workers Act:

text

Registration mandatory

Welfare Boards: 36 states

Death compensation: ₹10L

Education assistance: ₹5,000/child

MGNREGA Linkage:

text

100 days wage employment

90% unorganized workers covered

₹2.5 lakh Cr wages paid (2025)

Minimum wage protection

9.9 ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS

Evolution:

text

Pre-Independence: AITUC 1920

Post-Independence: 12 Central Federations

Current: 12 registered federations

Membership: 25M (5% workforce)

Functions:

1. **Collective Bargaining:** Wage agreements
2. **Grievance Redressal:** Internal committees
3. **Legislative Advocacy:** Labour law amendments

NOTE

4. **Welfare Promotion:** Education, housing

Challenges:

text

Declining membership: 5% coverage

Political affiliations: 12 federations

Multiplicity: 1000s small unions

Gig worker exclusion

Table 9.2: Major Trade Unions

Union	Membershi p	Affiliatio n
INTUC	10M	Congress
BMS	8M	BJP
CITU	5M	CPI(M)
HMS	4M	Socialist

9.10 CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Emerging Challenges:

text

1. Gig Economy: 15M platform workers

2. AI Automation: 30M jobs at risk (2030)

3. Climate Migration: 50M displaced

4. Ageing Workforce: Pension crisis

5. Gender Inclusion: LFPR 37% women

Labour Code Implementation:

text

Threshold raised: 10→20→50 workers

NOTE

Technology adoption: E-Shram portal

Single registration: 1 form, 10 laws

Compliance simplification

Future Directions:

text

Universal social security: 90% coverage target

Gig worker codes: Platform accountability

Green jobs: Renewable energy training

Skill India 4.0: 400M workers

Digital wages: UPI mandatory

9.11 CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES

Case 1: Surat Diamond Workers (Gujarat)

text

Workers: 8 lakh (95% unorganized)

Problem: Wage theft, TB prevalence

Intervention: GDWU union + ESIC extension

Result: 2 lakh enrolled, TB detection camps

Case 2: Bengaluru Gig Workers Collective

text

Platform workers: 3 lakh

Issues: Algorithm firing, wage cuts

Strategy: Collective bargaining + Labour Code

Outcome: Grievance portal, minimum wage

Best Practice: Tamil Nadu Model

text

ITERS: Industrial Tribunal E-filing

Labour Dept app: 24×7 complaints

Coverage: ESIC 90% organized workers

Result: Industrial harmony index #1

NOTE

9.12 SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTIONS

Comprehensive Strategy Framework:

1. Awareness & Rights Education:

text

Labour law camps: 100 villages/month

Wage calculation workshops

Contract rights awareness

Safety equipment training

2. Unionization & Collective Action:

text

Unorganized worker unions formation

NCWA negotiations support

Strike mediation

Gig worker cooperatives

3. Welfare Access Facilitation:

text

EPF/ESIC enrolment camps

PMJJBY enrolment drives

Maternity benefit claims

Gratuity processing

4. Crisis Intervention:

text

Wage theft recovery: 75% success

Accident compensation claims

Bonded labour rescue

Domestic worker protection

5. Skill Development:

text

MSME training linkages

Digital literacy: UPI, e-Shram

NOTE

Entrepreneurship: Mudra loans

Green skills: Solar training

Networking Model:

text

Worker → Social Worker → Labour Inspector → Welfare Board → Union
→ Court

9.13 SUMMARY

Unit 9 analyzed India's 565 million workforce facing systemic challenges with 90% unorganized employment lacking protections. Labour problems include 17% youth unemployment, ₹350 average wages, 48,000 occupational deaths, 85% without social security. Four Labour Codes (2020) simplify 44 laws while schemes like EPF (6Cr), ESIC (13Cr), PMJJBY (35Cr) expand coverage. Social workers facilitate rights through awareness camps, union formation, welfare access, crisis intervention, skill training ensuring informal workforce integration into formal protection systems.

9.14 GLOSSARY

- **PLFS:** Periodic Labour Force Survey
- **EPF:** Employees Provident Fund
- **ESIC:** Employees State Insurance Corporation
- **NCWA:** National Coal Wage Agreement
- **LFPR:** Labour Force Participation Rate

9.15 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

True/False:

1. Unorganized workers constitute 90% workforce (T/F)
2. Labour Codes reduced laws from 44 to 4 (T/F)

MCQ:

3. EPF members: a) 2Cr b) 6Cr c) 10Cr
4. Youth unemployment: a) 7.8% b) 17.2% c) 25%

Fill

in

blanks:

5. Average rural wage ____ per day
6. Agriculture workforce percentage ____

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE**9.16 SUGGESTED READINGS**

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13643	

9.17 REFERENCES

- PLFS 2025, Ministry of Statistics
- Economic Survey 2025-26
- Labour Bureau Annual Reports
- NCRB Accidental Deaths 2024
- Ministry of Labour & Employment

9.18 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

- Which of the following best defines the concept of 'Social Justice' in the context of social work? a) Ensuring absolute equality of income for all citizens regardless of occupation b) Promoting fairness, equity, and the dismantling of systemic barriers for marginalized groups c) Relying exclusively on private charity to help the poor d) Punishing wealthy individuals through high taxation
- Which international treaty is often described as an international bill of rights for women? a) The Geneva Convention b) The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) c) The Kyoto Protocol d) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- In a 'rights-based approach' to social work, how are vulnerable women and children viewed? a) As passive beneficiaries of charity and pity b) As active rights-holders legally entitled to dignity, protection, and resources c) As a burden on the state's

NOTE

economic resources d) As individuals who must earn their basic human rights through labor

4. Which United Nations convention comprehensively outlines the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children?
 - a) United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) b) The Paris Agreement c) The International Labour Organization Convention No. 138 d) The Hague Convention
5. What does 'Distributive Justice' primarily focus on?
 - a) The fair and equitable allocation of resources, wealth, and power within a society b) Handing out criminal sentences in a court of law c) Distributing commercial goods to international markets d) Ensuring everyone practices the same religion

Answers with Explanations:

- **b) Promoting fairness, equity, and the dismantling of systemic barriers for marginalized groups** - Social justice goes beyond simple equality; it focuses on equity—giving people what they need to succeed and removing structural obstacles.
- **b) The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** - Adopted by the UN in 1979, CEDAW legally binds participating nations to end gender-based discrimination and promote women's rights.
- **b) As active rights-holders legally entitled to dignity, protection, and resources** - A rights-based approach shifts the dynamic from traditional, paternalistic charity to a legal and moral obligation to fulfill human rights.
- **a) United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** - The UNCRC is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, establishing global standards for the protection and development of children.
- **a) The fair and equitable allocation of resources, wealth, and power within a society** - Distributive justice addresses the economic imbalances in society, ensuring that marginalized populations receive a fair share of societal resources.

B. Small answer type question

1. Define 'Social Justice' as a core value of the social work profession.
2. What is the fundamental difference between a 'charity-based approach' and a 'rights-based approach' regarding child welfare?

NOTE

3. State two primary objectives of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
4. Briefly explain how the intersection of poverty and gender creates compounded vulnerabilities for the 'girl child' in India.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Discuss the concept of 'intersectionality' when addressing social justice for women. How does a woman's caste, class, or geographic location compound the gender-based discrimination she faces?
2. Explain the role of advocacy in social work. How can professional social workers advocate for systemic policy changes to better protect the rights of vulnerable children?

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically examine the transition from a 'welfare approach' to a 'rights-based approach' in India's policies regarding women and children. Use specific examples (such as the Right to Education Act or the National Food Security Act) to illustrate how legally binding rights empower marginalized groups more effectively than discretionary welfare schemes.
2. Despite progressive legislation and constitutional guarantees, women and children remain the most vulnerable demographics in India. Discuss the systemic, socio-cultural, and institutional barriers that prevent the realization of true social justice for these groups. Propose a multi-level social work intervention model (individual, community, and policy level) to bridge the gap between legal rights and lived realities.



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SLM FEEDBACK FORM

PROGRAMME : _____

COURSE : _____

BLOCK : _____

UNIT : _____

Dear Student,

While studying the units of this block, you may have found certain portions of the text difficult to comprehend. We wish to know your difficulties and suggestions, in order to improve the course. Therefore, we request you to fill up and send us the following questionnaire, which pertains to this block. If you find the space provided insufficient, kindly use a separate sheet.

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Questionnaire

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3. How many hours did you need for studying the units? :

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4. Please give your reactions to the following items based on your reading of the block:

Items	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor	Give specific Examples (If poor)
Presentation Quality					
Language and Style					
Illustrations					
Used (diagrams, tables, etc.)					
Conceptual Clarity					
Check Your Progress Questions					
Suggested Readings - OER					

5. Any other comments:

BLOCK – III	RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE	117-172
Unit-10	Rural Society in India	119
Unit-11	Rural Development in India	135
Unit-12	Panchayati Raj System	147
Unit-13	Self Help Groups (SHGs)	159

UNIT 10

RURAL SOCIETY IN INDIA

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 10.1 Introduction
- 10.2 Objectives
- 10.3 Characteristics of Rural Society
- 10.4 Rural Social Structure
- 10.5 Agrarian Economy Analysis
- 10.6 Rural Problems and Challenges
- 10.7 Summary
- 10.8 Glossary
- 10.9 Check Your Progress
- 10.10 Suggested Readings
- 10.11 References
- 10.12 Exercise

10.1 INTRODUCTION

India remains predominantly rural with 65% population (920 million) living in 6.5 lakh villages (2026 estimates). Rural society preserves traditional social structures while confronting modernization pressures. Unit 10 analyzes defining characteristics, caste-based social organization, agrarian economy dynamics, and persistent problems like landlessness, migration, indebtedness threatening rural sustainability.

Social workers engage rural communities through panchayat strengthening, SHG formation, agricultural distress mitigation, and migration support systems essential for equitable rural development.

10.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Identify key characteristics distinguishing rural from urban society
2. Analyze caste, class, gender dimensions of rural social structure
3. Examine agrarian economy features, land relations, cropping patterns
4. Assess major rural problems with statistical evidence
5. Develop social work strategies for rural community development
6. Understand rural-urban continuum and migration dynamics

NOTE**10.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL SOCIETY**

Rural society represents a distinct social system with its own structure, culture, institutions, and patterns of interaction. It is shaped by agricultural economy, traditional norms, caste hierarchy, kinship networks, and community solidarity. Unlike urban society, which is characterized by impersonal relationships and industrial occupations, rural society is based on close-knit relationships and agrarian livelihoods.

Each characteristic below is explained in depth.

10.3.1 Predominance of Agriculture

Agriculture is the central economic activity in rural areas. It is not merely an occupation but a way of life.

Economic Dimension:

- Majority of rural households depend directly or indirectly on farming.
- Allied activities such as dairy farming, poultry, fisheries, and forestry supplement income.
- Agricultural income fluctuates based on climate and market prices.

Social Dimension:

- Land ownership determines social status.
- Large landowners often occupy dominant positions in village hierarchy.
- Landless labourers belong to economically weaker sections.

Political Dimension:

- Landowners often influence Panchayat decisions.
- Agrarian interests shape rural politics.

Dependence on agriculture makes rural society vulnerable to monsoon failure, drought, floods, and market instability.

10.3.2 Close Relationship with Nature

Rural life is deeply intertwined with the natural environment.

Environmental Dependence:

- Farming depends on rainfall and soil fertility.
- Seasonal cycles determine economic activity.
- Forests and rivers provide livelihood resources.

Cultural Impact:

- Agricultural festivals are based on harvest cycles.
- Religious rituals often revolve around nature worship.

NOTE

Unlike urban residents who are distanced from production processes, rural communities interact directly with land and natural resources.

However, climate change and environmental degradation now threaten rural sustainability.

10.3.3 Small and Limited Population Size

Villages typically have small populations compared to urban centers.

Effects of Small Size:

- Greater familiarity among residents.
- High level of interpersonal knowledge.
- Social cohesion and collective identity.

Limitations:

- Limited access to healthcare and education.
- Fewer employment opportunities.
- Slower technological diffusion.

Small size enhances community solidarity but may restrict modernization.

10.3.4 Homogeneity of Social Life

Rural society often exhibits relative homogeneity.

Basis of Homogeneity:

- Similar occupations (mostly agricultural).
- Shared language and dialect.
- Common customs and traditions.
- Uniform religious practices.

Homogeneity promotes social integration but may also discourage diversity and innovation.

10.3.5 Primary Group Relationships

In rural society, social relationships are primarily personal and direct.

Features:

- Face-to-face interactions.
- Emotional involvement.
- Strong mutual obligations.

The village functions as a primary group where individuals are known personally, unlike anonymous urban life.

This strengthens trust but also increases social pressure.

10.3.6 Strong Family System

NOTE

Family is the fundamental unit of rural society.

Joint Family System:

- Common residence.
- Shared property.
- Collective decision-making.

Patriarchal Structure:

- Male dominance in decision-making.
- Women often confined to domestic roles.

Functional Importance:

- Economic cooperation.
- Socialization of children.
- Care of elderly.
- Social security during crisis.

The family provides emotional and economic stability in rural areas.

10.3.7 Dominance of Caste System

Caste remains a defining feature of rural social structure.

Social Stratification:

- Upper castes often hold land and political power.
- Lower castes may work as labourers.

Occupational Segregation:

- Traditional occupations linked with caste identity.

Marriage Rules:

- Endogamy (marriage within caste).

Though modernization and legal reforms have reduced caste rigidity in some areas, caste identity continues to influence social interaction and political mobilization.

10.3.8 Informal Social Control

Social control in villages is largely informal.

Mechanisms:

- Public opinion.
- Religious norms.
- Customary laws.
- Village elders and Panchayat.

Fear of social boycott or loss of reputation regulates behaviour.

NOTE

Informal control maintains social order but may suppress individual freedom.

10.3.9 Limited Occupational Diversification

Rural economy lacks occupational diversity.

Reasons:

- Limited industrialization.
- Lack of skill training.
- Poor infrastructure.

Consequences:

- Dependence on agriculture.
- Seasonal unemployment.
- Migration to cities.

Economic vulnerability is high due to limited alternatives.

10.3.10 Traditional Beliefs and Practices

Tradition plays a dominant role in rural life.

Religious Influence:

- Rituals and festivals.
- Faith in spiritual leaders.

Social Customs:

- Early marriage (in some areas).
- Gender role expectations.
- Superstitions.

Modern education and media are gradually influencing rural beliefs.

10.3.11 Low Level of Infrastructure

Rural areas often face infrastructural deficits.

- Poor road connectivity.
- Inadequate healthcare facilities.
- Limited higher education institutions.
- Irregular electricity supply.

This affects productivity and quality of life.

10.3.12 Social Solidarity and Cooperation

Rural communities display strong collective spirit.

NOTE

- Cooperation during harvest.
- Community celebrations.
- Mutual aid during crisis.

This solidarity promotes resilience but may also resist progressive reforms.

10.5 RURAL SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Rural social structure refers to organized patterns of relationships and institutions.

10.5.1 Caste and Class Hierarchy

Caste determines social rank.
Class is often determined by landholding and wealth.

Upper classes:
• Large farmers.
• Moneylenders.

Lower classes:
• Marginal farmers.
• Landless labourers.

Caste and class overlap, reinforcing inequality.

10.5.2 Kinship and Marriage Patterns

Kinship networks are strong.

- Extended family bonds.
- Marriage alliances strengthen social ties.
- Community-based marriage norms.

Kinship ensures support during economic or social crises.

10.5.3 Panchayat and Local Governance

Village Panchayat acts as:

- Administrative body.
- Dispute resolution forum.
- Development planning authority.

It represents grassroots democracy.

10.6 AGRARIAN ECONOMY

10.6.1 Land Distribution

Land ownership remains unequal.

NOTE

- Fragmentation reduces productivity.
- Land reforms had limited success.

Land ownership determines power and influence.

10.6.2 Agricultural Labour

Landless labourers depend on daily wages.

- Seasonal employment.
- Low bargaining power.
- Vulnerability to exploitation.

10.6.3 Rural Indebtedness

Farmers borrow from:

- Banks.
- Moneylenders.

High interest rates trap farmers in debt cycles.

10.6.4 Modernization of Agriculture

Green Revolution introduced:

- High-yield seeds.
- Irrigation technology.
- Mechanization.

While productivity increased, inequality widened between regions.

10.7 RURAL PROBLEMS

10.7.1 Poverty

Persistent poverty limits access to education and healthcare.

10.7.2 Illiteracy

Lack of educational facilities affects awareness and employment.

10.7.3 Unemployment

Seasonal and disguised unemployment are widespread.

10.7.4 Health and Sanitation Issues

- Malnutrition.
- Lack of clean drinking water.
- Limited medical facilities.

10.7.5 Social Inequality

- Caste discrimination.
- Gender bias.
- Limited upward mobility.

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE**10.7.6 Migration**

Migration leads to:

- Urban overcrowding.
- Family separation.
- Labour exploitation.

10.8 SUMMARY

Rural society in India is structured around agriculture, caste hierarchy, kinship, and tradition. It demonstrates strong social solidarity and cultural continuity but faces significant socio-economic challenges.

Effective rural development policies must address poverty, inequality, unemployment, and infrastructural deficits while preserving community cohesion.

Unit 10 analyzed India's rural society housing 920 million across 6.5 lakh villages characterized by caste-class hierarchies, joint families, informal controls. Agrarian economy shows declining holdings (1.08ha avg), diversified cropping, rising mechanization (45%) amidst indebtedness (52% families), migration (50M), landlessness (18%). Social structure reveals persistent jajmani remnants, gender inequities (13% women landowners), Dalit exclusion. Rural problems demand integrated interventions through land consolidation, credit access, skill training, migration support creating sustainable rural livelihoods.

10.9 GLOSSARY

- **Jajmani:** Traditional patron-client system
- **Landholding:** Ownership/possession of agricultural land
- **MGNREGA:** 100 days rural employment guarantee
- **KCC:** Kisan Credit Card
- **Tenancy:** Cultivating others' land

10.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

True/False:

1. Rural population constitutes 65% (T/F)
2. Average landholding 2.5 ha (T/F)

MCQ:

3. Villages number: a) 3 lakh b) 6.5 lakh c) 10 lakh
 4. Marginal holdings %: a) 38% b) 68% c) 85%

Fill in blanks:
 5. Agri workforce % total workers
 6. Farm household debt avg ₹

NOTE**10.11 SUGGESTED READINGS**

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13644	

10.12 REFERENCES

- Desai, A. R. (1969). *Rural Sociology in India*. Popular Prakashan.
- Dube, S. C. (1955). *Indian Village*. Routledge.
- Srinivas, M. N. (1976). *The Remembered Village*. University of California Press.
- Singh, Y. (1986). *Modernization of Indian Tradition*. Rawat Publications.
- Jodhka, S. S. (2012). *Caste in Contemporary India*. Routledge.

10.13 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. Which of the following is the primary economic foundation of traditional rural society in India? a) Large-scale manufacturing b) Agrarian economy and allied agricultural activities c) Information technology and services d) Export-import trade
2. The traditional system of socio-economic and ritual exchange of labor and services among different castes in an Indian village is known as: a) The Zamindari System b) The Ryotwari System c) The Jajmani System d) The Panchayati System

NOTE

3. Who among the following sociologists introduced the concept of the "Dominant Caste" in the study of Indian rural society? a) A.R. Desai b) M.N. Srinivas c) G.S. Ghurye d) B.R. Ambedkar
4. Which of the following is considered a core institutional pillar of traditional rural Indian society? a) The nuclear family b) The joint family system c) Urban corporate structures d) Individualistic social mobility
5. What is the most significant contributor to the high rate of farmer suicides and agrarian distress in contemporary rural India? a) Overproduction of food grains b) Heavy agricultural indebtedness and crop failure c) Excessive focus on organic farming d) A shortage of agricultural land available for the government

Answers with Explanations:

- **b) Agrarian economy and allied agricultural activities** - The rural economy in India is overwhelmingly dependent on agriculture, animal husbandry, and related traditional crafts.
- **c) The Jajmani System** - This was a reciprocal system where lower castes provided specialized services to upper land-owning castes in exchange for a share of the agricultural produce.
- **b) M.N. Srinivas** - Srinivas coined the term "Dominant Caste" to describe a caste that wields economic and political power in a village, usually due to land ownership and numerical strength, even if they aren't the highest in the ritual hierarchy.
- **b) The joint family system** - The joint family has historically been the fundamental social and economic unit of rural life, facilitating shared agricultural labor and resource pooling.
- **b) Heavy agricultural indebtedness and crop failure** - High input costs, reliance on unpredictable monsoons, and predatory informal lending practices often trap rural farmers in severe debt cycles.

B. Small answer type question

1. Define 'Rural Society' and highlight two of its demographic characteristics.
2. What is the 'Jajmani System' and how did it function in traditional Indian villages?
3. List three primary causes of widespread rural poverty in India.
4. Briefly explain how the caste system influences occupational choices in a traditional rural setting.

Part 2**C. Long answer type question (200 words)**

1. Discuss the changing dynamics of the joint family system in rural India. How have modernization, rural-to-urban migration, and changing economic realities contributed to the gradual transition toward nuclear families?
2. Explain the agrarian class structure in rural India. How do the distinct categories of landowners, tenant farmers, and landless agricultural laborers interact within the rural economy?

Part 3**D. Long answer type question (300 words)**

1. Critically analyze the role of the Caste System in shaping the socio-economic and political landscape of rural society in India. Discuss M.N. Srinivas's concept of the 'Dominant Caste' and explain how land ownership continues to dictate power dynamics and social hierarchy within the village community today.
2. Evaluate the major socio-economic crises facing contemporary rural society, with a specific focus on agricultural distress and rural indebtedness. Discuss the systemic factors that drive farmers into debt traps. As a social worker, what grassroots interventions and policy advocacy strategies would you propose to alleviate rural poverty and empower agricultural communities?

NOTE

NOTE

UNIT 11

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 11.2 Introduction
- 11.3 Objectives
- 11.4 Concept and Objectives of Rural Development
- 11.5 Evolution of Rural Development Approach
- 11.6 Major Rural Development Programmes
- 11.7 Role of Government and NGOs
- 11.8 Community Participation Strategies
- 11.9 Monitoring and Evaluation
- 11.10 Challenges and Future Directions
- 11.11 Summary
- 11.12 Glossary
- 11.13 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 11.14 Suggested Readings - OER
- 11.15 References
- 11.16 Exercise

11.2 INTRODUCTION

Rural development represents planned interventions to improve economic well-being and quality of life for 920 million rural Indians comprising 65% population. Beyond agriculture, it encompasses infrastructure, health, education, livelihoods, social equity creating sustainable village ecosystems. Unit 11 analyzes concepts, evolution from Community Development era to present integrated approaches, flagship programs generating ₹10 lakh crore annual investment alongside government-NGO partnerships and community ownership essential for social work practice.

Social workers facilitate participatory planning, SHG formation, scheme convergence, monitoring ensuring development reaches marginalized households.

11.3 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Define rural development and distinguish growth vs development
2. Trace evolution from Community Development to DAY-NRLM

NOTE

3. Analyze major rural development programs with current statistics
4. Evaluate government-NGO complementary roles
5. Develop community participation strategies and models
6. Assess monitoring frameworks and impact evaluation methods

11.4 CONCEPT AND OBJECTIVES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Definition: Process of improving economic, social conditions of rural poor through opportunities, empowerment, infrastructure.

Rural development is a multidimensional process aimed at improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas. Since a significant portion of India's population resides in villages, rural development is essential for national progress.

Rural development does not merely mean agricultural growth; it includes improvement in education, healthcare, infrastructure, employment opportunities, social justice, and empowerment of marginalized groups.

It is both an economic and social transformation process designed to eliminate poverty and inequality in rural areas.

11.4.1 CONCEPT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The concept of rural development has evolved over time.

Initially, rural development was equated with agricultural development. However, modern understanding recognizes it as a comprehensive process involving social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions.

Rural development can be understood as:

- Improvement in living standards
- Reduction of rural poverty
- Employment generation
- Access to basic services
- Empowerment of marginalized groups
- Sustainable use of natural resources

It aims at inclusive and participatory growth where rural people actively participate in decision-making processes.

Dimensions of Rural Development

Rural development is multidimensional and includes:

NOTE**(a) Economic Development**

- Increasing agricultural productivity
- Promoting rural industries
- Employment generation
- Poverty alleviation

(b) Social Development

- Education
- Healthcare
- Gender equality
- Social justice

(c) Infrastructure Development

- Roads and transport
- Electricity
- Irrigation
- Digital connectivity

(d) Environmental Sustainability

- Conservation of natural resources
- Sustainable agriculture
- Climate resilience

Thus, rural development is not limited to economic growth but encompasses human development.

11.4.2 OBJECTIVES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The main objectives of rural development are as follows:

1. Poverty Alleviation

A primary objective is to reduce rural poverty.

- Provide livelihood opportunities
- Improve income levels
- Ensure food security

Poverty reduction leads to improved health, education, and overall well-being.

2. Employment Generation

Creating employment opportunities is essential.

- Promote small-scale industries
- Encourage self-employment
- Develop skill training programmes

Employment reduces migration and economic vulnerability.

NOTE

3. Agricultural Development

Enhancing agricultural productivity is vital.

- Use of modern technology
- Irrigation facilities
- High-yield seeds
- Crop diversification

Agriculture remains the backbone of rural economy.

4. Infrastructure Development

Development of infrastructure improves living standards.

- Construction of roads
- Electrification
- Safe drinking water
- Sanitation facilities

Infrastructure connects villages to markets and services.

5. Social Justice and Equality

Rural development aims to:

- Reduce caste discrimination
- Promote gender equality
- Empower marginalized communities

Social justice ensures inclusive growth.

6. Education and Literacy

Improving rural education is essential.

- Access to primary and secondary education
- Adult literacy programmes
- Vocational training

Education enhances awareness and productivity.

7. Healthcare Improvement

Healthcare services must reach rural populations.

- Primary health centres
- Maternal and child health programmes
- Immunization campaigns

Health is a key indicator of development.

8. Empowerment of Women and Marginalized Groups

Rural development focuses on:

NOTE

- Women's participation in decision-making
- Support for Self Help Groups
- Financial inclusion

Empowerment ensures sustainable progress.

9. Sustainable Development

Development must be environmentally sustainable.

- Soil conservation
- Water management
- Renewable energy use

Sustainability protects future generations.

11.4.3 Principles of Rural Development

Effective rural development is based on:

- Participation of local people
- Decentralization of power
- Transparency and accountability
- Equity and inclusion
- Sustainability

Community participation ensures that development reflects local needs.

11.4.4 Importance of Rural Development

Rural development is important because:

- Majority of population resides in rural areas
- Agriculture contributes significantly to economy
- Reduces rural-urban migration
- Promotes balanced regional development
- Strengthens national economy

Without rural development, national development remains incomplete.

11.5 MAJOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN INDIA

India has launched several programmes to promote rural development.

11.5.1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- Provides 100 days of wage employment
- Focuses on asset creation
- Reduces rural unemployment

NOTE

11.5.2 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- Rural road connectivity programme
- Connects remote villages

11.5.3 National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)

- Promotes Self Help Groups
- Encourages self-employment

11.5.4 Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural)

- Promotes sanitation
- Eliminates open defecation

11.5.5 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural)

- Provides housing for rural poor

11.6 ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND NGOS

Government Role:

- Policy formulation
- Funding programmes
- Infrastructure development
- Monitoring implementation

NGO Role:

- Awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Community mobilization
- Monitoring grassroots programmes

NGOs bridge the gap between government and rural communities.

11.7 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation is essential for sustainable rural development.

- Involvement in planning
- Local decision-making
- Monitoring projects
- Self-help initiatives

Participation increases accountability and ownership.

11.8 SUMMARY

Rural development is a comprehensive and multidimensional process aimed at improving economic, social, and infrastructural conditions in rural areas.

NOTE

Its objectives include poverty alleviation, employment generation, agricultural development, social justice, and sustainable growth.

Government programmes, NGO interventions, and community participation collectively contribute to rural transformation.

Balanced rural development is essential for overall national progress.

11.12 GLOSSARY

- **DAY-NRLM:** Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NRLM
- **MGNREGA:** Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- **PMAY-G:** Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin
- **CRP:** Community Resource Person
- **FHTC:** Functional Household Tap Connection

11.13 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**True/False:**

1. Rural development investment ₹4.5 lakh Cr (T/F)
2. MGNREGA average 120 days work (T/F)

MCQ:

3. SHGs under NRLM: a) 2Cr b) 9.5Cr c) 15Cr
4. PMAY-G houses: a) 1Cr b) 4Cr c) 6Cr

Fill**in****blanks:**

5. PMGSY roads constructed ____ lakh km
6. Jal Jeevan coverage ____% households

11.14 SGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13645	

NOTE**11.15 REFERENCES**

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11.10 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. Which of the following was the first major rural development initiative launched by the Government of India post-independence in 1952? a) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) b) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) c) Community Development Programme (CDP) d) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
2. What is the primary objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)? a) To provide free agricultural equipment to all farmers b) To guarantee 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work c) To provide highly skilled IT jobs to rural youth d) To privatize rural agricultural lands
3. Which apex institution in India is primarily responsible for providing and regulating credit and other facilities for the promotion and development of agriculture and rural industries? a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) b) State Bank of India (SBI) c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) d) NITI Aayog
4. The 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' (PMGSY) focuses primarily on which aspect of rural development? a) Rural electrification b) Rural health and sanitation c) Providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations d) Promoting rural telecommunications

NOTE

5. In the context of rural development, what does a 'bottom-up' approach signify? a) Policies dictated entirely by the central government without local input b) Development planning and implementation driven by the local community and grassroots organizations c) Privatizing all village resources to multinational corporations d) Focusing development solely on urban areas to pull rural populations upward

Answers with Explanations:

- **c) Community Development Programme (CDP)** - Launched on October 2, 1952, the CDP was India's first nationwide attempt to bring holistic socio-economic development to rural areas through community participation.
- **b) To guarantee 100 days of wage employment...** - MGNREGA acts as a crucial social security net, alleviating extreme rural poverty by providing guaranteed livelihood security through unskilled manual labor.
- **c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** - Established in 1982, NABARD is the premier developmental bank focused entirely on credit planning, financing, and promoting rural and agricultural development.
- **c) Providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations** - PMGSY was launched to build rural infrastructure, recognizing that road connectivity is essential for economic growth, market access, and poverty reduction.
- **b) Development planning and implementation driven by the local community and grassroots organizations** - A bottom-up (or participatory) approach ensures that development programs address the actual, localized needs of the community rather than imposing generic, top-down bureaucratic solutions.

B. Small answer type question

1. Define 'Rural Development' in the context of the Indian economy.
2. List two primary objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
3. Identify the main purpose for establishing NABARD.
4. What is the difference between 'wage employment' programs and 'self-employment' programs in rural development?

Part 2**C. Long answer type question (200 words)**

NOTE

1. Discuss the historical significance and the ultimate limitations of the Community Development Programme (CDP) of 1952. Why did the Indian government eventually have to shift its strategy from the CDP to more targeted poverty alleviation programs?
2. Explain the role of physical infrastructure (such as roads, electrification, and irrigation) in accelerating rural development. How does the lack of such infrastructure perpetuate rural poverty?

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically evaluate the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on rural livelihoods. Discuss its successes in preventing distress migration and empowering rural women, while also analyzing the persistent challenges in its implementation (such as delayed payments, corruption, and the quality of assets created).
2. Trace the paradigm shift in India's rural development strategies from a 'top-down' bureaucratic approach to a 'bottom-up' participatory approach. Discuss how the decentralization of power through local self-governance and the active involvement of rural communities have fundamentally changed the planning and execution of development programs.

UNIT 12

PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 12.2 Introduction
- 12.3 Objectives
- 12.4 Evolution of Panchayati Raj
- 12.5 73rd Constitutional Amendment
- 12.6 Structure and Functions
- 12.7 Role in Rural Development
- 12.8 Summary
- 12.9 Glossary
- 12.10 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 12.11 Suggested Readings - OER
- 12.12 References
- 12.13 Exercise

12.1 INTRODUCTION

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) represent India's decentralized rural governance system empowering 3.2 million elected representatives across 2.5 lakh Panchayats serving 920 million rural citizens. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) constitutionalized local self-governance, mandating three-tier structure with 50% women reservation transforming rural power dynamics. Unit 12 traces evolution from ancient Kautilya's village republics to modern statutory bodies, analyzes structure-functions, evaluates development role generating ₹3 lakh crore annual devolution critical for social work practice.

Social workers strengthen PRI functioning through capacity building, participatory planning facilitation, social audit training, ensuring marginalized voice in Gram Sabhas.

12.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Trace Panchayati Raj evolution from Vedic period to 73rd Amendment
2. Analyze constitutional provisions and three-tier structure

NOTE

3. Examine powers, functions, finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions
4. Evaluate PRI role in rural development program implementation
5. Develop social work strategies for PRI strengthening
6. Understand challenges and constitutional limitations

12.3 EVOLUTION OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

The Panchayati Raj System represents India's commitment to grassroots democracy and decentralized governance. The term "Panchayati Raj" literally means "rule by five," referring to the traditional council of five elders who governed village affairs. However, its modern form is a structured system of local self-government constitutionally recognized under the Indian Constitution.

The evolution of Panchayati Raj reflects India's gradual transition from centralized colonial governance to participatory democratic decentralization.

12.3.1 Panchayats in Ancient India

The institution of Panchayat has deep historical roots in Indian civilization.

Features of Ancient Panchayats:

- Villages were largely self-sufficient economic units.
- A council of respected elders governed village affairs.
- Decisions were based on customary laws and consensus.
- Disputes were resolved locally without external intervention.

Village communities had autonomy in managing:

- Irrigation systems
- Land distribution
- Social discipline
- Community welfare

Ancient Panchayats functioned as democratic bodies in spirit, though not formally structured like modern institutions.

12.3.2 Panchayats during Medieval Period

NOTE

During the medieval period, village Panchayats continued to function, though their autonomy varied under different rulers.

- Local leaders managed tax collection.
- Disputes were settled through customary practices.
- Community cooperation remained strong.

However, with centralized kingdoms and feudal systems, local governance became subordinate to higher authorities.

12.3.3 Panchayats under British Rule

British colonial administration initially weakened traditional Panchayats by centralizing power.

However, administrative challenges led to reforms promoting local self-government.

Important Developments:

- Lord Ripon's Resolution (1882) emphasized local self-governance and is considered the "Magna Carta of Local Self-Government" in India.
- Local boards and district councils were introduced.

Despite these measures:

- Real power remained with British officials.
- Financial autonomy was limited.
- Participation was restricted.

Thus, colonial local governance lacked democratic character.

12.3.4 Post-Independence Vision

After independence, leaders recognized the importance of decentralization.

Article 40 of the Directive Principles of State Policy directs the State to organize village Panchayats and endow them with necessary powers.

The aim was to:

- Promote participatory democracy.
- Ensure rural development.
- Decentralize administrative power.

However, early Panchayati Raj institutions lacked uniformity and strength across states.

12.3.5 Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)

Appointed to evaluate the Community Development Programme and National Extension Service.

Major Recommendations:

- Establish a **three-tier Panchayati Raj system**:

NOTE

- Gram Panchayat (village level)
- Panchayat Samiti (block level)
- Zila Parishad (district level)

- Transfer planning and development responsibilities to local bodies.
- Encourage democratic decentralization.

Based on these recommendations, Rajasthan became the first state to introduce Panchayati Raj in 1959.

12.3.6 Ashok Mehta Committee (1978)

This committee reviewed shortcomings in Panchayati Raj functioning.

Key Suggestions:

- Two-tier system instead of three-tier.
- Strong district-level body as primary unit.
- Participation of political parties in elections.
- Regular social audits.

Though innovative, these recommendations were not fully implemented due to political instability.

12.3.7 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992

The most significant milestone in Panchayati Raj evolution.

It granted constitutional recognition and uniform structure to Panchayats across India.

This amendment came into force in 1993 and inserted Part IX in the Constitution.

12.4 73RD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

The 73rd Amendment institutionalized democratic decentralization.

12.4.1 KEY CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

1. Three-Tier Structure

- Gram Panchayat (Village Level)
- Panchayat Samiti (Block Level)
- Zila Parishad (District Level)

This ensures vertical integration of governance.

NOTE**2. Gram Sabha**

The Gram Sabha is the foundation of Panchayati Raj.

- Consists of all adult members of the village.
- Approves plans, budgets, and development projects.
- Acts as watchdog over Panchayat activities.

It promotes direct democracy.

3. Reservation Policy

- At least 33% seats reserved for women (many states increased to 50%).
- Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

This enhanced representation of marginalized groups.

4. Five-Year Tenure

- Mandatory elections every five years.
- Ensures continuity and accountability.

5. State Finance Commission

- Reviews financial position of Panchayats.
- Recommends revenue distribution.

6. State Election Commission

- Conducts free and fair Panchayat elections.

12.4.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF 73RD AMENDMENT

- Strengthened grassroots democracy.
- Increased political participation of women.
- Promoted local-level planning.
- Reduced bureaucratic centralization.
- Enhanced accountability.

It transformed Panchayats from advisory bodies to constitutional institutions.

12.5 STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

12.5.1 Gram Panchayat (Village Level)

This is the basic unit of local governance.

NOTE

Composition:

- Elected members.
- Headed by Sarpanch/Pradhan.

Functions:

- Provide drinking water.
- Maintain sanitation.
- Implement welfare schemes.
- Maintain village infrastructure.
- Register births and deaths.

It directly interacts with rural citizens.

Historical Phases:

1. Ancient Period (Vedic-Arthashastra):

text

Gramika: Village head (Rig Veda)

Sabha/Samiti: Village assemblies

Kautilya's Arthashastra: Autonomous villages

Land revenue collection, dispute settlement

2. Medieval Period:

text

Mughal Zamindari system

Village headmen (Muqaddam, Lambardar)

Revenue collection decentralization

3. British Period:

text

Ripon's Resolution 1882: Local boards

Lord Ripon: "Father of Local Self-Government"

Mayo Resolution 1870: Financial decentralization

4. Post-Independence (1947-1992):

text

Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957): Three-tier recommendation

Ashok Mehta Committee (1977): 2-tier, political parties

GVK Rao (1985): Regular elections

LM Singhvi (1986): Constitutional status

5. Constitutional Era (Post-1992):

text

73rd Amendment: December 24, 1992

Panchayats as institutions of self-governance

State Election Commissions

State Finance Commissions

12.6.2 Panchayat Samiti (Block Level)

Coordinates activities at block level.

Functions:

- Consolidate village plans.
- Supervise Gram Panchayats.
- Implement agriculture and health programmes.
- Manage block-level development funds.

Acts as a link between village and district administration.

12.6.3 Zila Parishad (District Level)

Highest tier in rural local governance.

Functions:

- Prepare district development plans.
- Allocate resources among blocks.
- Coordinate large-scale projects.

It ensures district-level planning integration.

12.7 ROLE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are central to rural development.

They:

- Implement employment schemes (MGNREGA).
- Promote sanitation programmes.
- Facilitate infrastructure projects.
- Encourage community participation.

NOTE

Decentralized governance ensures development reflects local needs.

12.8 CHALLENGES IN PANCHAYATI RAJ

Despite progress, challenges persist.

1. Financial Constraints

Limited independent revenue sources.

2. Political Interference

State-level interference in local decisions.

3. Lack of Administrative Capacity

Inadequate training and expertise.

4. Social Barriers

Caste and gender discrimination limit participation.

5. Corruption and Lack of Transparency

Strengthening accountability mechanisms is essential.

12.9 SUMMARY

The Panchayati Raj System evolved from traditional village councils to constitutionally empowered democratic institutions. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment marked a historic transformation in India's governance structure.

Panchayati Raj promotes decentralization, participatory democracy, and inclusive rural development. However, financial autonomy, administrative efficiency, and social equality remain critical for its success.

GLOSSARY

- **73rd Amendment:** Constitutional status to Panchayats
- **Gram Sabha:** Village assembly of all adults
- **GPDP:** Gram Panchayat Development Plan
- **Sarpanch:** Elected head of Gram Panchayat
- **SEC:** State Election Commission

12.10 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

NOTE

1. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, formalized the Panchayati Raj System in India.
2. The three tiers of the Panchayati Raj System are: Gram Panchayat (Village Level), Panchayat Samiti (Block/Intermediate Level), and Zila Parishad (District Level).
3. The Gram Sabha is the foundational body of the Panchayati Raj System, comprising all adult persons registered in the electoral rolls of the village.
4. The Act mandates a minimum of 33% (one-third) reservation of total seats and chairperson positions for women across all three tiers.
5. The State Election Commission is responsible for the superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all Panchayat elections.

12.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13646	

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NOTE

12.13 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. Which constitutional amendment gave a mandatory, constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India? a) 42nd Amendment b) 44th Amendment c) 73rd Amendment d) 74th Amendment
2. What is the fundamental democratic unit of the Panchayati Raj System, consisting of all registered voters in a village? a) Zila Parishad b) Gram Sabha c) Panchayat Samiti d) State Assembly
3. What is the fixed tenure of a Panchayat at every level, as per the 73rd Amendment? a) 3 years b) 4 years c) 5 years d) 6 years
4. Which body is constituted by the Governor of a State every five years to review the financial position of the Panchayats? a) Central Finance Commission b) State Finance Commission c) Planning Commission d) State Election Commission
5. The Panchayat Samiti acts as a crucial administrative link between the: a) Gram Panchayat and Zila Parishad b) State Government and Central Government c) Village voters and the Chief Minister d) Municipal Corporation and Zila Parishad

Answers with Explanations:

- **c) 73rd Amendment** - Enacted in 1992, this amendment institutionalized the Panchayati Raj System, mandating a three-tier structure and regular elections across India.
- **b) Gram Sabha** - The Gram Sabha acts as the legislative body at the grassroots level, ensuring direct democracy by including every registered voter of the village.
- **c) 5 years** - The Constitution guarantees a uniform five-year term for all Panchayats, and if dissolved earlier, elections must be held within six months.
- **b) State Finance Commission** - This commission recommends the distribution of tax revenues between the state and the Panchayats, ensuring local bodies have the funds to function.
- **a) Gram Panchayat and Zila Parishad** - Operating at the block level, the Panchayat Samiti coordinates the plans and funds between the village-level Panchayats and the district-level Zila Parishad.

B. Small answer type question

NOTE

1. Outline the three-tier organizational structure of the Panchayati Raj System.
2. What are the specific eligibility criteria to be a member of the Gram Sabha?
3. State the primary objective of reserving seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Panchayats.
4. Identify two major developmental subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution transferred to Panchayats.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Discuss the impact of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment on the political empowerment of rural women. How has the mandatory 33% reservation altered the traditional patriarchal power dynamics in village governance?
2. Explain the significance of the Gram Sabha as an instrument of participatory democracy and social audit. Why is the active functioning of the Gram Sabha essential for transparent local governance?

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically evaluate the functional autonomy of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in contemporary India. Despite constitutional backing, local governments often suffer from a lack of "Funds, Functions, and Functionaries." Discuss these systemic bottlenecks and suggest policy reforms to make PRIs genuinely self-reliant institutions of local self-government.
2. Analyze the synergistic relationship between Panchayati Raj Institutions and professional social workers/NGOs in driving rural development. How can social workers collaborate with Gram Panchayats to ensure the effective implementation of flagship poverty alleviation and health schemes (like MGNREGA and the National Rural Health Mission) at the grassroots level?

NOTE

UNIT 13

SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS)

STRUCTURE:

- 13.1 Introduction
- 13.2 Objectives
- 13.3 Concept of SHGs
- 13.4 Concept and Formation of SHGs
- 13.5 Role in Women Empowerment
- 13.6 Microfinance and Economic Development
- 13.7 Case Studies
- 13.8 Challenges
- 13.9 Role of Government and NGOs
- 13.10 Summary
- 13.11 Glossary
- 13.12 Answers to check your progress
- 13.13 Suggested readings OER
- 13.14 References
- 13.15 Exercise

13.2 INTRODUCTION

Self Help Groups (SHGs) represent India's largest women-led community institution with 9.5 crore members across 95 lakh groups revolutionizing rural empowerment through savings, credit, livelihoods. Originating from Mysore (1984), SHGs evolved into DAY-NRLM's flagship strategy generating ₹2.5 lakh crore annual bank credit while transforming gender dynamics. Unit 13 examines SHG formation processes, empowerment mechanisms, microfinance linkages, economic impact creating 6 crore sustainable livelihoods essential for social work practice.

Social workers facilitate SHG formation, capacity building, market linkages, federations strengthening grassroots economic democracy.

13.3 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

NOTE

1. Define SHG concept and distinguish from cooperatives/NGOs
2. Explain detailed formation, governance, functionality processes
3. Analyze SHG role across five empowerment dimensions
4. Examine microfinance evolution, bank linkage models
5. Evaluate economic development impacts with statistics
6. Develop social work strategies for SHG promotion, sustainability

13.4 CONCEPT AND FORMATION OF SHGS

Definition: 10-20 poor women forming voluntary group for mutual savings, lending, economic activities with regular meetings, collective decision-making.

Self Help Groups (SHGs) represent one of the most significant grassroots innovations in the field of rural development, microfinance, and women empowerment in India. They emerged as a response to rural poverty, lack of access to institutional credit, and exploitation by informal moneylenders.

The SHG movement is based on the philosophy that **poor people, especially women, are capable of organizing themselves, saving regularly, managing funds, and improving their socio-economic condition through collective action.**

SHGs are not merely financial units; they are social platforms that promote solidarity, empowerment, leadership development, and community participation.

13.4.1 CONCEPT OF SELF HELP GROUPS

A Self Help Group is a small, voluntary association of individuals (usually 10–20 members) from similar socio-economic backgrounds who come together to address common problems through mutual support, savings, and internal lending.

The concept rests on three fundamental principles:

1. Self-Reliance

Members depend on their own savings and collective strength rather than external charity.

2. Mutual Help

Members support each other financially and socially.

3. Collective Responsibility

All members share responsibility for repayment of loans and smooth functioning of the group.

NOTE

Definition

An SHG can be defined as:

“A voluntary, small, homogeneous group of people who come together for the purpose of solving common economic and social problems through regular savings and collective action.”

13.4.2 OBJECTIVES OF SELF HELP GROUPS

The objectives of SHGs extend beyond financial assistance.

Economic Objectives

- Encourage regular savings habit
- Provide microcredit at reasonable interest rates
- Promote income-generating activities
- Reduce dependence on moneylenders
- Improve financial literacy

Social Objectives

- Empower women socially
- Promote collective decision-making
- Improve awareness about rights and entitlements
- Address social issues such as domestic violence, child marriage, and health awareness

Developmental Objectives

- Promote entrepreneurship
- Enhance access to government schemes
- Improve living standards
- Foster sustainable development

Thus, SHGs function as instruments of socio-economic transformation.

13.4.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF SHGS

SHGs possess specific features that ensure effective functioning:

1. Small Size

Usually 10–20 members to facilitate easy coordination and participation.

2. Homogeneity

NOTE

Members belong to similar socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. This promotes trust and unity.

3. Regular Meetings

Meetings are held weekly or monthly to:

- Collect savings
- Review loans
- Discuss problems
- Plan activities

4. Democratic Functioning

- Leaders are elected by members.
- Decisions are taken collectively.
- Transparency is maintained.

5. Internal Lending System

- Loans are provided from group savings.
- Interest rates are decided by members.
- Repayment schedules are fixed collectively.

6. Collective Liability

Group members guarantee loan repayment, ensuring financial discipline.

13.4.4 RATIONALE BEHIND SHG FORMATION

The formation of SHGs is based on certain socio-economic realities:

- Poor people lack access to formal banking services.
- Banks consider small borrowers risky.
- Moneylenders charge exorbitant interest rates.
- Women often lack financial autonomy.

SHGs bridge the gap between banks and the rural poor by building creditworthiness through savings discipline.

13.4.5 FORMATION PROCESS OF SELF HELP GROUPS

Formation of SHGs is a structured and participatory process that involves several stages.

Stage 1: Community Mobilization

NOTE

- NGOs or government agencies identify potential members.
- Awareness meetings are conducted.
- Importance of savings and collective action is explained.

Mobilization builds trust and motivation.

Stage 2: Identification and Selection of Members

Members are selected based on:

- Economic similarity
- Willingness to participate
- Commitment to regular savings

Homogeneity is crucial to reduce conflict.

Stage 3: Group Orientation and Capacity Building

Training is provided on:

- Record keeping
- Leadership skills
- Financial management
- Rights and responsibilities

This stage ensures preparedness for independent functioning.

Stage 4: Election of Office Bearers

Office bearers typically include:

- President/Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Their roles include:

- Maintaining records
- Managing funds
- Conducting meetings

Leadership rotation encourages democratic participation.

Stage 5: Regular Savings

Each member contributes a fixed amount regularly.

- Savings may be weekly or monthly.
- Amount is affordable and uniform.
- Discipline in savings is strictly maintained.

Savings create a common financial pool.

NOTE

Stage 6: Internal Lending

Once sufficient savings accumulate:

- Members borrow small loans.
- Interest rates are moderate.
- Repayment schedule is agreed collectively.

Internal lending builds financial management skills.

Stage 7: Bank Linkage Programme

After demonstrating financial discipline:

- SHGs open bank accounts.
- Banks provide loans based on group savings history.
- Credit linkage enhances financial inclusion.

The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, initiated by NABARD, has been instrumental in expanding SHGs across India.

Stage 8: Income-Generating Activities

SHGs engage in:

- Dairy farming
- Handicrafts
- Tailoring
- Small retail businesses
- Food processing

Income generation increases economic independence.

13.4.6 Role of Government and NGOs in Formation

Government and NGOs facilitate:

- Mobilization and training
- Financial literacy programmes
- Monitoring and supervision
- Access to government schemes

The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) actively promotes SHGs nationwide.

13.4.7 Impact of SHG Formation

Formation of SHGs has multiple impacts:

Economic Impact

- Increased savings
- Access to credit
- Rise in household income
- Reduced indebtedness

Social Impact

- Increased self-confidence among women
- Participation in community decisions
- Awareness about health and education

Political Impact

- Women's representation in Panchayats
- Greater voice in local governance

SHGs thus contribute to holistic empowerment.

13.4.8 Challenges in SHG Formation

Despite success, challenges include:

- Lack of financial literacy
- Poor record maintenance
- Market access difficulties
- Internal conflicts
- Dependency on external support

Sustainability requires continuous training and monitoring.

13.5 SUMMARY

Self Help Groups are grassroots institutions formed to promote savings, credit access, and collective empowerment among economically weaker sections, particularly women.

The formation process involves mobilization, training, savings discipline, internal lending, bank linkage, and income-generating activities.

SHGs play a transformative role in poverty reduction, financial inclusion, women empowerment, and rural development.

They are not just economic entities but platforms for social change and democratic participation.

Unit 13 analyzed SHGs as India's largest women institution with 9.5 crore members generating ₹2.5 lakh crore bank credit transforming rural economies. Formed through 9-step process, SHGs deliver 2.1x income increase, 68% decision-making authority, leadership for 45% women. Microfinance linkage (1:4 savings-loan ratio), enterprise collectives (6 lakh), FPOs (2,500) create sustainable livelihoods. Case studies from Kerala, Bihar, Delhi demonstrate scalability across rural-urban contexts. Social workers essential for formation, capacity building, federation strengthening ensuring SHG sustainability.

NOTE

NOTE**13.9 GLOSSARY**

- **SHG:** Self Help Group (10-20 members)
- **DAY-NRLM:** Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NRLM
- **CLF:** Cluster Level Federation (50 VOs)
- **CRP:** Community Resource Person
- **Lakhpati Didi:** SHG women earning ₹1 lakh/year

13.12 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. A Self Help Group (SHG) is a small, voluntary, and economically homogenous association of 10 to 20 individuals who come together to save small amounts regularly, contribute to a common fund, and meet emergency credit needs through mutual aid.
2. The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) was launched by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 1992.
3. The 'Panch Sutra' (Five Principles) essential for effective SHG management are: regular meetings, regular savings, regular internal lending, regular recovery/repayment, and regular record-keeping/maintenance of books.
4. The primary objective of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is to reduce rural poverty by mobilizing poor households into Self Help Groups and enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities.
5. SHGs promote financial inclusion by bridging the gap between formal banking institutions and the unbanked rural poor, eliminating their dependence on predatory informal moneylenders.

13.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13647	

NOTE**13.12 REFERENCES**

- MoRD DAY-NRLM Annual Report 2025-26
- NABARD Status of Microfinance 2025-26
- NITI Aayog Women Entrepreneurship Report
- RBI Priority Sector Lending Reports
- State Rural Livelihood Mission Reports

13.13 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. What is the recommended membership size for a standard Self Help Group (SHG) in non-hilly areas? a) 2 to 5 members b) 10 to 20 members c) 50 to 100 members d) 100 to 200 members
2. Which apex financial institution pioneered the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme in India in 1992? a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) b) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) d) State Bank of India (SBI)
3. The foundational governance guidelines for a functional SHG are collectively known as the: a) Panchsheel Agreement b) Panch Sutra c) Five-Year Plan d) Gram Swaraj
4. Which flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development relies on SHGs as the primary instrument for rural poverty alleviation? a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) b) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) c) Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY) d) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)
5. What is the primary source of credit for an SHG in its initial stage before establishing bank linkages? a) Direct government grants b) Foreign commercial loans c) Internal pooled savings of its members d) Bank overdraft facilities

Answers with Explanations:

- **b) 10 to 20 members** - Small group size ensures peer accountability, democratic participation, ease of consensus building, and efficient record-keeping.
- **c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** - NABARD initiated the SBLP as a pilot project in

NOTE

1992, transforming microfinance into a mainstream banking activity in India.

- **b) Panch Sutra** - The Panch Sutra (Regular Meetings, Savings, Internal Lending, Repayments, and Bookkeeping) ensures financial discipline and long-term organizational viability.
- **b) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** - DAY-NRLM structures its poverty reduction interventions around the universal mobilization of rural households into SHG networks and higher-level federations.
- **c) Internal pooled savings of its members** - Before seeking institutional credit, SHGs rely on internal thrift to instill financial discipline and address immediate, small credit needs of their members.

B. Small answer type question

1. Define a Self Help Group (SHG) and state its primary financial function.
2. Outline the 'Panch Sutra' principles that govern an effective SHG.
3. What is the role of a 'Cluster Level Federation' (CLF) in the SHG institutional structure?
4. Identify two major socio-economic benefits experienced by rural women through SHG participation.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Explain the sequential stages involved in the formation and institutional stabilization of an SHG—from initial group mobilization and internal thrift to bank linkage and economic self-sufficiency.
2. Discuss how participation in SHGs shifts household decision-making power and financial autonomy in favor of rural women.

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically evaluate the contribution of the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) to financial inclusion and poverty alleviation in rural India. Discuss the major structural challenges facing SHGs today, including regional imbalances in growth, inadequate marketing linkages for SHG products, and issues surrounding over-indebtedness.

2. Formulate a social work action plan that utilizes Self Help Groups as catalysts for social reform beyond microcredit. Explain how an SHG network can be leveraged to address public health issues, combat gender-based violence, perform social audits, and increase female participation in local governance through the Gram Sabha.

NOTE

NOTE



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SLM FEEDBACK FORM

PROGRAMME : _____

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BLOCK : _____

UNIT : _____

Dear Student,

While studying the units of this block, you may have found certain portions of the text difficult to comprehend. We wish to know your difficulties and suggestions, in order to improve the course. Therefore, we request you to fill up and send us the following questionnaire, which pertains to this block. If you find the space provided insufficient, kindly use a separate sheet.

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1. Name : _____

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3. How many hours did you need for studying the units? :

--

4. Please give your reactions to the following items based on your reading of the block:

Items	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor	Give specific Examples (If poor)
Presentation Quality					
Language and Style					
Illustrations					
Used (diagrams, tables, etc.)					
Conceptual Clarity					
Check Your Progress Questions					
Suggested Readings - OER					

5. Any other comments:

BLOCK – IV	HUMAN RIGHTS, NGO AND ENVIRONMENT	173-240
Unit-14	Concept of Human Rights	175
Unit-15	Human Rights Law and Practice	189
Unit-16	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	207
Unit-17	Environment and Ecology	217
Unit-18	Sustainable Development and Social Work Practice	229

UNIT 14

CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 14.1 Introduction
- 14.2 Objectives
- 14.3 Fund Flow Analysis
- 14.4 Statement of Changes in Working Capital
- 14.5 Fund Flow Statement
- 14.6 Uses and Limitations of Fund Flow Analysis
- 14.7 Cash Flow Analysis
- 14.8 Accounting Standard-3 (AS-3): Cash Flow Statement
- 14.9 Importance of Cash Flow Analysis
- 14.10 Difference between Fund Flow and Cash Flow Statements
- 14.11 Summary
- 14.12 Glossary
- 14.13 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 14.14 Suggested Readings - OER
- 14.15 References
- 14.16 Exercise

14.1 INTRODUCTION

Human rights represent universal, inalienable entitlements inherent to all individuals regardless of nationality, race, gender, or religion. Emerging from post-World War II consensus rejecting totalitarianism, human rights framework guides modern social work practice protecting dignity across vulnerable populations. Unit 14 traces philosophical evolution from Magna Carta to UDHR 1948, analyzes Indian constitutional guarantees, NHRC mechanisms, equipping social workers with rights-based intervention strategies essential for marginalized communities, women, children, and minorities.

14.2 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

NOTE

1. Define human rights and distinguish generations/classifications
2. Trace historical evolution from natural rights to modern framework
3. Analyze UDHR 1948 provisions and implementation status
4. Examine Indian constitutional rights framework (Part III)
5. Develop social work strategies for rights protection and promotion
6. Understand NHRC/SHRC institutional mechanisms

14.3 MEANING AND EVOLUTION

Definition: Rights inherent to all human beings, universal, indivisible, interdependent regardless of legal systems.

Three Generations Classification:

Generation	Rights	Examples
First (Civil-Political)	Liberty, equality	Life, speech, fair trial
Second (Economic-Social)	Welfare rights	Education, health, work
Third (Solidarity)	Collective rights	Development, peace, environment

Historical Evolution:

text

1215: Magna Carta (England) - Rule of law

1689: English Bill of Rights - Parliament supremacy

1789: French Declaration - Liberty, equality, fraternity

1791: US Bill of Rights - First 10 Amendments

1945: UN Charter - Human rights promotion

1948: UDHR adoption - Universal standard

Philosophical Foundations:

- **Natural Rights:** Locke - Life, liberty, property
- **Social Contract:** Rousseau - Popular sovereignty
- **Kantian Dignity:** Human as end, not means
- **Utilitarianism:** Bentham - Greatest happiness principle

NOTE

Indian Context Pre-Independence:

text

1928: Nehru Report - Fundamental rights

1946: Constituent Assembly debates

Ambedkar: "Liberty of thought and expression"

Gandhi: Rights through duties

14.4 UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

UDHR 1948 - 30 Articles Framework:

Preamble: Recognition of inherent dignity, equal rights foundation of freedom, justice, peace.

Key Articles:

Article	Right	Significance
1	All human equality, dignity	Foundational principle
3	Life, liberty, security	Non-derogable core
7	Equality before law	Rule of law
14	Asylum from persecution	Refugee protection
19	Free expression	Democratic cornerstone
25	Health, housing, food	Social security
26	Education (free primary)	Empowerment tool
29	Duties to community	Balanced approach

Implementation Mechanisms:

text

Regional: ECHR, ACHR, African Charter

National: Constitutions, NHRCs

Judicial: PIL, Public Interest Litigation

Civil Society: Amnesty, HRW monitoring

Criticisms & Cultural Relativism Debate:

text

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE

Western bias claims

Collective vs individual rights

Economic rights implementation gaps

Developing nations: Right to development

India's UDHR Commitment:

text

1948: First signatory

Core signatory: ICCPR, ICESCR

Domestic incorporation: Part III Constitution

14.5 HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Part III (Articles 12-35) - Six Fundamental Rights:

Right	Article	Key Features
Equality	14-18	25% cases under Art 14
Freedom	19-22	Speech (Art 19), Life (21)
Exploitation	23-24	Child labour prohibition
Religion	25-28	Secularism foundation
Culture	29-30	Minority protection
Constitutional	32,226	Remedies, suspension

Article 21 Expansion (Maneka Judgment 1978):

text

"Life and personal liberty" → Right to live with dignity

Golden triangle: 14+19+21

Privacy (2017), Environment (MC Mehta), Health (Paschim Banga)

Directive Principles (Part IV) Complement:

text

Art 39: Equal pay, child health

Art 41: Right to work, education

Art 46: SC/ST economic interests

Art 47: Nutrition, prohibition

Enforcement Mechanisms:

text

Writ Jurisdiction: 5 writs (HC/Supreme Court)

PIL: SP Gupta 1981 liberalized locus standi

Public Authorities Accountability

RTI 2005: Transparency tool

NHRC/SHRC Institutional Framework:

text

NHRC 1993: 1 lakh cases disposed

Suomoto cognizance powers

Civil society representation

Annual budget: ₹150 Cr

14.6 ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

Social workers play a crucial role in safeguarding and promoting human rights, especially for marginalized and vulnerable populations. In societies marked by inequality, discrimination, poverty, and exploitation, social workers act as advocates, facilitators, educators, and change agents to ensure that individuals and communities are aware of and able to exercise their rights.

NOTE

Protection of rights is not limited to legal enforcement; it also includes awareness generation, empowerment, access to resources, and institutional accountability.

14.6.1 Social Worker as Advocate

Advocacy is one of the primary roles of social workers.

Social workers:

- Represent marginalized individuals before authorities
- Raise issues of injustice and discrimination
- Challenge policies that violate rights
- Promote legal reforms

They act as voices for those who cannot speak for themselves, such as:

- Women facing domestic violence
- Child labourers
- Elderly persons
- Persons with disabilities
- Minority communities

Advocacy may involve lobbying, public campaigns, and legal intervention.

14.6.2 Awareness and Legal Literacy

Many rights violations occur due to lack of awareness.

Social workers conduct:

- Legal literacy camps
- Awareness workshops
- Community meetings
- Educational campaigns

They educate people about:

- Constitutional rights
- Child rights
- Women's rights
- Labour rights
- Right to education
- Right to information

Awareness empowers individuals to demand justice.

14.6.3 Counseling and Support Services

Victims of rights violations often require emotional and psychological support.

NOTE

Social workers provide:

- Crisis intervention
- Trauma counseling
- Rehabilitation services
- Referral to legal aid

They ensure holistic support beyond legal remedies.

14.6.4 Facilitation of Access to Services

Social workers help individuals access:

- Government welfare schemes
- Health services
- Education programmes
- Social security benefits

By bridging the gap between communities and institutions, they ensure effective implementation of rights.

14.6.5 Policy Implementation and Monitoring

Social workers assist in:

- Implementing government policies
- Monitoring rights-based programmes
- Conducting social audits
- Evaluating programme effectiveness

They ensure accountability and transparency.

14.6.6 Community Mobilization

Collective action strengthens protection of rights.

Social workers:

- Organize Self Help Groups
- Promote community-based organizations
- Encourage participation in Panchayats
- Facilitate social movements

Community mobilization empowers people to protect their rights collectively.

14.6.7 Protection of Child Rights

Social workers play a vital role in:

- Preventing child labour
- Addressing child abuse
- Ensuring access to education
- Supporting juvenile justice mechanisms

They collaborate with schools, police, and child welfare committees.

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE

14.6.8 Protection of Women's Rights

Social workers support women by:

- Assisting victims of domestic violence
- Promoting gender equality
- Supporting livelihood initiatives
- Facilitating access to legal protection

They work closely with NGOs and protection officers.

14.6.9 Protection of Labour Rights

In labour contexts, social workers:

- Spread awareness about minimum wages
- Assist workers in accessing social security
- Support trade unions
- Address workplace discrimination

14.6.10 Role in Promoting Social Justice

Protection of rights is closely linked to social justice.

Social workers aim to:

- Reduce inequality
- Eliminate discrimination
- Promote inclusivity
- Ensure equitable distribution of resources

They work towards structural change, not just individual relief.

14.7 CHALLENGES FACED BY SOCIAL WORKERS IN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Despite their commitment, social workers face challenges such as:

- Limited resources
- Political interference
- Social resistance
- Bureaucratic delays
- Threats from powerful interest groups

Overcoming these challenges requires institutional support and legal backing.

14.9 ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Social workers adhere to ethical principles:

- Respect for human dignity
- Confidentiality

NOTE

- Non-discrimination
- Social justice
- Professional integrity

Ethics guide their interventions in sensitive situations.

Skills Matrix:

Skill	Application
Legal literacy	Rights workshops
Documentation	FIR, affidavit drafting
Counseling	Trauma recovery
Networking	NHRC, legal aid linkage
Advocacy	PIL support

14.8 SUMMARY

Unit 14 analyzed human rights evolution from Magna Carta to UDHR 1948 establishing universal standards across civil-political, economic-social, solidarity generations. Indian Constitution Part III guarantees six fundamental rights enforced through writs, PIL, NHRC mechanisms handling 1 lakh cases annually. Article 21 judicial expansion covers dignity, privacy, environment, health. Social workers operationalize rights through awareness (10,000 camps), legal aid, monitoring, advocacy creating rights-based practice protecting vulnerable populations across violations spectrum.

14.9 GLOSSARY

- **UDHR:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948
- **NHRC:** National Human Rights Commission
- **PIL:** Public Interest Litigation
- **Part III:** Fundamental Rights (Art 12-35)
- **Non-derogable:** Rights cannot be suspended

14.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

True/False:

1. UDHR adopted 1948 (T/F)
2. Article 21 covers only life (T/F)

NOTE**MCQ:**

3. Human rights generations: a) 2 b) 3 c) 4
 4. Indian NHRC established: a) 1983 b) 1993 c) 2003

Fill in blanks:

5. Fundamental Rights Articles ____ to ____
 6. Magna Carta year ____

14.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13648	

14.12 REFERENCES

- Constitution of India (Part III, IV)
- NHRC Annual Report 2025-26
- Supreme Court PIL landmark judgments
- UDHR 1948 & ICCPR/ICESCR
- Ministry of Law Annual Digest

14.13 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. What is the fundamental principle upon which all human rights are based? a) Citizenship of a specific developed country b) The inherent dignity and equality of every human being c) Economic wealth and social status d) Religious affiliation
2. On which date did the United Nations General Assembly adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)? a) October 24, 1945 b) August 15, 1947 c) December 10, 1948 d) January 26, 1950
3. According to Karel Vasak's classification, which generation of human rights primarily encompasses economic, social, and cultural rights? a) First Generation b) Second Generation c) Third Generation d) Fourth Generation

NOTE

4. When human rights are described as "inalienable," it means that: a) They must be earned through good behavior. b) They can only be granted by a monarch or dictator. c) They apply only to adults over the age of 18. d) They cannot be voluntarily given up or taken away by any government.
5. Which political philosopher is famously associated with the concept of "Natural Rights," asserting that individuals have a right to life, liberty, and property? a) Karl Marx b) John Locke c) Sigmund Freud d) Max Weber

Answers with Explanations:

- **b) The inherent dignity and equality of every human being** - Human rights are universal moral principles that recognize the basic value and dignity of human life, regardless of any other characteristic.
- **c) December 10, 1948** - The UDHR is a milestone document in the history of human rights, and December 10th is celebrated globally as Human Rights Day to commemorate this adoption.
- **b) Second Generation** - Second-generation rights focus on equality and guarantee different members of the citizenry equal conditions and treatment (e.g., right to work, education, and healthcare).
- **d) They cannot be voluntarily given up or taken away by any government** - Inalienability is a core characteristic of human rights, meaning they are inherently tied to human existence and cannot be revoked by human laws.
- **b) John Locke** - Locke's theories heavily influenced the development of modern human rights, particularly the idea that certain rights are natural and exist prior to the formation of governments.

B. Small answer type question

1. Define the concept of 'Human Rights'.
2. List three core characteristics of human rights (e.g., universal, indivisible).
3. Briefly explain the focus of 'First Generation' human rights.
4. What is the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in international law?

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

NOTE

1. Discuss the historical evolution of human rights. How did early historical documents like the Magna Carta (1215) and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789) pave the way for the modern concept of human rights?
2. Differentiate between 'Natural Rights', broader 'Human Rights', and 'Fundamental Rights'. How does a human right become a fundamental right within a specific country's legal framework?

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically examine Karel Vasak's classification of human rights into three distinct generations (Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity). Detail the specific types of rights covered under each generation. Furthermore, discuss the principle of 'indivisibility'—why is it impossible to fully enjoy first-generation civil rights without the fulfillment of second-generation economic and social rights?
2. Analyze the intrinsic relationship between Human Rights and the profession of Social Work. How do the ethical principles of social work align with the universal human rights framework? Provide practical examples of how a professional social worker acts as a human rights defender when intervening on behalf of vulnerable and marginalized populations (such as refugees, the extreme poor, or victims of discrimination).

UNIT 15

HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND PRACTICE

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 15.2 Introduction
- 15.3 Objectives
- 15.4 Legal Framework in India
- 15.5 National and State Human Rights Commissions
- 15.6 Rights of Women and Children
- 15.7 Case Interventions
- 15.8 Summary
- 15.9 Glossary
- 15.10 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 15.11 Suggested Readings - OER
- 15.12 References
- 15.13 Exercise

15.2 INTRODUCTION

India's human rights legal architecture integrates constitutional guarantees, statutory commissions, specialized legislation protecting vulnerable groups while confronting implementation gaps across custodial deaths, trafficking, discrimination domains. Unit 15 examines comprehensive framework from NHRC/SHRC operations handling 1.2 lakh complaints (2025), specialized commissions (NCW, NCPCR), women-children rights legislation (PWDVA, POCSO, JJ Act), landmark case interventions shaping jurisprudence essential for social work advocacy, monitoring, litigation support.

Social workers operationalize rights through NHRC complaint filing, commission inquiries facilitation, victim rehabilitation ensuring justice delivery.

15.3 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Analyze India's multi-layered human rights legal framework
2. Examine NHRC/SHRC structure, powers, functioning
3. Master women-children rights specialized legislation
4. Understand case intervention processes, PIL mechanisms

NOTE

- 5. Develop social work strategies for commission engagement
- 6. Evaluate implementation effectiveness, reform needs

15.4 LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN INDIA

Multi-Tier Legal Architecture:

1. Constitutional Foundation (Part III):

text

Article 12-35: Six fundamental rights

Article 32: Supreme Court remedies

Article 226: High Court writs

Article 21 Expansion: Dignity jurisprudence

2. Statutory Commissions:

text

NHRC Act 1993: Civil-political rights

NCW Act 1990: Women rights

NCPCR Act 2005: Child rights

NCSC/NCST: SC/ST rights

3. Specialized Legislation:

Group	Legislation	Key Features
Women	PWDVA 2005	Domestic violence protection
	POSH 2013	Workplace harassment
Children	POCSO 2012	Sexual offences
	JJ Act 2015	Juvenile justice
SC/ST	Atrocities Act 1989	Caste violence
Minorities	Wakf Act 1995	Property rights

4. International Incorporation:

NOTE

ICCPR, ICESCR: Ratified 1979

CAT: Signed, not ratified

CEDAW: Ratified 1993

CRC: Ratified 1992

Criminal Justice Reforms:

NCRB monitoring: 1.2 lakh rights violations

Fast-track courts: 1,000 POCSO courts

Witness protection scheme 2018

Zero FIR provision

15.5 NATIONAL AND STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

The protection and promotion of human rights require strong institutional mechanisms. In India, the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** and **State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs)** were established to safeguard fundamental rights and ensure accountability in cases of violations.

These commissions were created under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**, which provides the legal framework for the establishment and functioning of human rights institutions in India.

15.5.1 National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is an independent statutory body established in 1993 to protect and promote human rights across India.

Definition of Human Rights (as per the Act)

Human rights are rights relating to life, liberty, equality, and dignity guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in international covenants enforceable by courts in India.

15.5.2 Composition of NHRC

The NHRC consists of:

- A Chairperson (who has been a Chief Justice of India)
- One member who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court
- One member who is or has been a Chief Justice of a High Court
- Two members having knowledge or practical experience in human rights

NOTE

Additionally, Chairpersons of National Commissions (such as SC, ST, Women, Minorities) are deemed members.

Members are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Prime Minister.

15.5.3 Functions of NHRC

The NHRC performs several important functions:

1. Inquiry into Complaints

- Investigates complaints of human rights violations.
- Can act on petitions filed by victims or suo motu (on its own initiative).

2. Intervention in Court Proceedings

- May intervene in cases involving human rights violations with court approval.

3. Visiting Detention Centres

- Inspects jails, detention centers, and custodial institutions.
- Ensures humane treatment of prisoners.

4. Review of Safeguards

- Reviews constitutional and legal safeguards.
- Suggests reforms where necessary.

5. Promotion of Human Rights Awareness

- Organizes seminars and workshops.
- Promotes research and education on human rights.

6. Encouraging NGOs

- Collaborates with civil society organizations.
- Strengthens grassroots rights protection mechanisms.

15.5.4 Powers of NHRC

NHRC has powers of a civil court, including:

- Summoning witnesses
- Examining documents
- Receiving evidence on affidavits
- Requiring production of records

However, its recommendations are advisory and not binding.

15.5.5 Limitations of NHRC

Despite its importance, NHRC faces certain limitations:

NOTE

- Cannot directly punish violators.
- Recommendations are not legally binding.
- Limited jurisdiction over armed forces.
- Backlog of cases.

These limitations affect its effectiveness.

15.5.6 STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS (SHRCS)

State Human Rights Commissions function at the state level under the same Act.

They address human rights violations within the respective state.

Composition of SHRC

Each SHRC consists of:

- A Chairperson (who has been a Chief Justice of a High Court)
- One member who is or has been a High Court Judge
- One member with knowledge or experience in human rights

Members are appointed by the Governor of the state.

Functions of SHRC

SHRCs perform similar functions as NHRC but at the state level:

- Inquire into complaints of rights violations.
- Visit jails and detention centers.
- Review safeguards.
- Promote awareness.

They play a crucial role in decentralizing rights protection.

15.5.7 Importance of NHRC and SHRC

These commissions are important because:

- They provide accessible grievance redressal mechanisms.
- They enhance accountability of public authorities.
- They promote human rights culture.
- They strengthen democratic governance.

15.5.8 Relationship between NHRC and SHRC

- NHRC deals with national-level issues.
- SHRC addresses state-level violations.
- NHRC may transfer complaints to SHRC where appropriate.

This division ensures efficiency and localized attention.

NHRC Structure & Powers (Protection of Human Rights Act 1993):

NOTE

Feature	Details
Composition	Chairperson (retired CJI), 4 members
Jurisdiction	Whole India, civil-political rights
Powers	Civil court powers, inquiry, suo moto
Cases 2025	1.2 lakh disposed, 75,000 pending
Budget	₹150 Cr annual

Functions:

1. **Inquiry:** Violations investigation
2. **Inspection:** Jails, mental hospitals
3. **Recommendations:** Government action
4. **Research:** Rights studies
5. **Awareness:** Human rights education
6. **Intervention:** Court proceedings

SHRCs (28 States):

text

Similar powers, state jurisdiction

Coordination: NHRC liaison

Cases: 2.5 lakh annual (aggregate)

Limitations:

text

No enforcement powers

Government servants only (private excluded)

Recommendations non-binding

Overlapping jurisdiction

Case Load Analysis (2025):

text

NOTE

Custodial deaths: 28% complaints

Police negligence: 22%

Women/children: 18%

SC/ST atrocities: 15%

Others: 17%

Rights of Women and Children**Women Rights Framework:****1. Violence Protection:**

text

PWDVA 2005: 4.5 lakh cases, 65% orders

POSH 2013: 10,000 ICC filed annually

IPC 498A: Cruelty protection

Dowry Prohibition 1961

2. Economic Rights:

text

Maternity Benefit 1961 (amended 2017): 26 weeks

Equal Remuneration Act 1976

POSH Committees mandatory

NRLM: 9.5Cr women economic collectives

Children Rights Architecture:**1. Protection Laws:**

text

POCSO 2012: 60,000 cases (2024)

Fast-track courts: 1,000 operational

Childline 1098: 1.5Cr calls received

2. Juvenile Justice:

text

JJ Act 2015: 664 CWCs, 562 JJBs

SOCIAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIETY

NOTE

Rehabilitation homes: 800
Age determination guidelines

3. Education & Labour:

text
RTE 2009: 25Cr children covered
CLPR 2016: Total ban <14 years
NCLP schools: 22 lakh enrolled

Table 15.1: Vulnerable Group Cases

Group	Annual Cases	Disposal %	Pendency
Women	4.5 lakh	65	1.8 lakh
Children	1.2 lakh	72	45,000
SC/ST	90,000	28	2.5 lakh

15.6 RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women and children constitute two of the most vulnerable groups in society. Historically, they have faced discrimination, exploitation, violence, and denial of equal opportunities. The protection and promotion of their rights are essential for achieving social justice, equality, and inclusive development.

In India, the rights of women and children are protected through:

- Constitutional provisions
- National laws and policies
- International conventions
- Institutional mechanisms

15.6.1 Rights of Women

Women’s rights are human rights. They include civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that ensure equality, dignity, and freedom from discrimination.

NOTE**A. Constitutional Rights of Women**

The Constitution of India guarantees equality and protection to women.

1. Right to Equality (Articles 14–16)

- Equal protection of laws
- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sex
- Equal opportunity in public employment

2. Right against Exploitation (Article 23)

- Prohibits trafficking and forced labour

3. Right to Freedom (Article 19)

- Freedom of speech and expression
- Freedom of movement

4. Directive Principles

- Equal pay for equal work (Article 39)
- Maternity relief (Article 42)

These constitutional safeguards aim to eliminate gender discrimination.

B. Legal Rights of Women

Several laws protect women's rights in India:

- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013
- Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

These laws address violence, exploitation, workplace safety, and reproductive rights.

C. Economic Rights of Women

Women have the right to:

- Equal wages
- Property and inheritance rights
- Employment opportunities
- Access to credit and financial services

NOTE

Economic empowerment strengthens autonomy and reduces dependency.

D. Political Rights of Women

Women enjoy:

- Right to vote
- Right to contest elections
- Reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions

Political participation enhances decision-making power.

E. Social and Cultural Rights

Women have the right to:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Dignity and respect
- Freedom from harmful practices

These rights promote holistic development.

15.6.2 Rights of Children

Children require special protection due to their vulnerability and developmental needs.

Child rights are based on the principles of:

- Survival
- Protection
- Development
- Participation

A. Constitutional Rights of Children

Article 21A – Right to free and compulsory education (6–14 years)

Article 24 – Prohibits child labour in hazardous industries

Article 39(e) & (f) – Protects children from abuse and exploitation

B. Legal Safeguards for Children

Important laws include:

- Right to Education Act, 2009
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

NOTE

These laws aim to ensure safety, education, and rehabilitation.

C. Rights under International Conventions

India is a signatory to:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

These conventions reinforce national commitments.

D. Categories of Child Rights

Right to Survival

- Nutrition
- Healthcare
- Safe environment

Right to Development

- Education
- Play
- Cultural participation

Right to Protection

- Protection from abuse
- Protection from trafficking
- Protection from child labour

Right to Participation

- Right to express opinions
- Right to be heard in matters affecting them

15.6.3 Importance of Protecting Women and Children's Rights

Protection of these rights:

- Promotes gender equality
- Reduces poverty
- Ensures social justice
- Enhances national development
- Strengthens democratic values

Societies that respect women and children's rights achieve sustainable development.

15.6.4 Challenges in Ensuring Rights

Despite legal safeguards, challenges persist:

- Gender discrimination
- Domestic violence

NOTE

- Child labour
- Trafficking
- Malnutrition
- Early marriage
- Social stigma

Effective enforcement and awareness are necessary.

15.7 CASE INTERVENTIONS

Landmark Judicial Interventions:

1. Vishaka Guidelines (1997):

text

Workplace sexual harassment

POSH legislation foundation

10M women workers protected

2. MC Mehta Cases (1980s-2020s):

text

Environment as Article 21 right

Ganga cleaning orders

Industrial pollution closures

3. People's Union Civil Liberties vs Union (2001):

text

Right to food established

NFSA 2013 foundation

ICDS universalization

4. NHRC Landmark Actions:

text

1994: Rajasthan custodial death inquiry

2002: Gujarat riots monitoring

2020: Migrant crisis suo moto

2025: Digital privacy investigation

NOTE**PIL Intervention Process:**

text

1. Suo moto/Locus standi
2. Interim relief orders
3. Monitoring committees
4. Compliance reporting
5. Contempt proceedings

Social Work Case Role:

text

Fact-finding support

Petitioner representation

Monitoring committee membership

Victim rehabilitation

Follow-up advocacy

2025 Digital Rights Case: NHRC inquiry into data privacy violations affecting 50Cr Aadhaar holders.

15.8 SUMMARY

Unit 15 analyzed India's comprehensive human rights framework integrating constitutional Part III guarantees, NHRC/SHRC operations (1.2 lakh cases), specialized legislation protecting women (PWDVA 4.5 lakh cases), children (POCSO 60,000 FIRs), SC/ST (90,000 atrocities). Judicial activism through PILs established food, environment, privacy rights under Article 21. Social workers facilitate commission inquiries, legal aid, monitoring committees, rehabilitation ensuring rights realization for custodial death victims, trafficking survivors, discrimination cases creating justice delivery ecosystem.

15.9 GLOSSARY

- **NHRC:** National Human Rights Commission
- **PWDVA:** Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
- **POCSO:** Protection of Children from Sexual Offences

NOTE

- **PIL:** Public Interest Litigation
- **Locus Standi:** Right to approach court

15.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**True/False:**

1. NHRC has enforcement powers (T/F)
2. POSH mandatory workplaces >10 employees (T/F)

MCQ:

3. NHRC cases disposed 2025: a) 50k b) 1.2 lakh c) 2 lakh
4. POCSO fast-track courts: a) 500 b) 1,000 c) 2,000

Fill in blanks:

5. Protection of ___ from Sexual Offences Act
6. NHRC Act year ___

15.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13649	

15.12 REFERENCES

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- Government of India. (1993). *The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993*. Ministry of Law and Justice.
- United Nations. (1966). *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*. UN General Assembly.
- United Nations. (1966). *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*. UN General Assembly.

15.13 EXERCISE

NOTE

Part 1

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. In which year was the Protection of Human Rights Act enacted in India, establishing the National and State Human Rights Commissions? a) 1950 b) 1975 c) 1993 d) 2005
2. Which Part of the Indian Constitution contains enforceable Fundamental Rights that safeguard civil and political liberties? a) Part II b) Part III c) Part IV d) Part IV-A
3. Which specific judicial writ is invoked to secure the release of a person who has been illegally or arbitrarily detained by the police or private individuals? a) Mandamus b) Certiorari c) Habeas Corpus d) Quo Warranto
4. The two major UN covenants adopted in 1966 to give legally binding force to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the ICCPR and the: a) CEDAW b) ICESCR c) UNCRC d) CAT
5. Who can file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in an Indian High Court or Supreme Court regarding a human rights violation? a) Only the direct victim of the violation b) Only a practicing government attorney c) Any public-spirited individual or civil society group on behalf of victims unable to access the court d) Only a police officer of high rank

Answers with Explanations:

- **c) 1993** - The Protection of Human Rights Act was passed in 1993 to provide for the constitution of the National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commissions, and Human Rights Courts.
- **b) Part III** - Part III (Articles 12–35) guarantees fundamental freedoms to citizens and non-citizens, enforceable directly through the higher judiciary under Articles 32 and 226.
- **c) Habeas Corpus** - Literally meaning "to have the body," this writ acts as a primary defense against illegal detention and custodial abuse.
- **b) ICESCR** - The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), along with the ICCPR (Civil and Political Rights), forms the core framework of international human rights law.
- **c) Any public-spirited individual or civil society group...** - PIL relaxed the traditional rule of *locus standi*, enabling social

NOTE

workers, NGOs, and citizens to seek legal redress for vulnerable populations who lack financial or social resources.

B. Small answer type question

1. State the primary objective of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
2. Differentiate between Fundamental Rights (Part III) and Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) regarding their legal enforceability.
3. Name two statutory commissions created in India (besides NHRC) to safeguard the rights of specific vulnerable sections.
4. Define Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and state its role in enforcing human rights.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Discuss the structure, statutory functions, and major powers of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India. What are the key operational limitations (such as advisory nature of recommendations) that affect its overall enforcement capacity?
2. Explain how the Supreme Court of India has expanded the scope of Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) through judicial activism to include rights such as clean environment, livelihood, free legal aid, and dignity.

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically evaluate the constitutional mechanisms that bridge international human rights law and domestic jurisprudence in India. How do international covenants signed by India (such as ICCPR, ICESCR, and CEDAW) influence statutory enactments and judicial decisions at the national level?
2. Formulate a legal aid and social work intervention plan to combat custodial violence and illegal detention at the district level. Discuss how social workers can collaborate with Legal Services Authorities, State Human Rights Commissions, and local law enforcement to ensure human rights compliance, conduct social audits, and secure justice for victims.

UNIT 16

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 16.1 Key Coverage
- 16.2 Introduction
- 16.3 Objectives
- 16.4 Meaning and Types of NGOs
- 16.5 Role in Social Development
- 16.6 NGO Management and Accountability
- 16.7 NGO and Government Partnership
- 16.8 Summary
- 16.9 Glossary
- 16.10 Check Your Progress
- 16.11 Suggested Readings
- 16.12 References
- 16.13 Exercise

16.2 INTRODUCTION

NGOs represent India's vibrant third sector with 3.2 million registered organizations implementing ₹1.5 lakh crore annual development expenditure complementing government schemes reaching remote tribal hamlets, urban slums, disaster zones. From SEWA's 25 lakh women workers to Akshaya Patra's 20 lakh daily meals, NGOs bridge implementation gaps across education, health, livelihoods, rights. Unit 16 examines typology, social development contributions, management systems, FCRA-compliant government partnerships essential for social work collaboration, capacity building, networking.

Social workers leverage NGO platforms for grassroots intervention scaling, funding access, specialized service delivery.

16.3 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. Classify NGOs by typology, size, focus areas
2. Analyze NGO contributions across development sectors
3. Understand management structures, governance, compliance

NOTE

4. Examine government-NGO partnership models, FCRA regulations
5. Develop strategies for social work-NGO collaboration
6. Evaluate accountability mechanisms, challenges, reforms

16.4 MEANING AND TYPES OF NGOS

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in social development, welfare, and human rights protection. They act as intermediaries between the government and society, particularly in addressing the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

NGOs operate independently of government control, though they may receive funding or support from governmental or international bodies. Their primary objective is to promote social welfare, development, and justice rather than profit.

16.4.1 Meaning of NGOs

An NGO can be defined as:

“A voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental organization formed by individuals or groups to promote social, economic, cultural, or environmental development.”

NGOs are characterized by:

- Voluntary formation
- Non-profit orientation
- Independent management
- Service or advocacy focus
- Public welfare objectives

They work at local, national, and international levels.

16.4.2 Key Features of NGOs

1. **Voluntary Nature**
Membership and participation are voluntary.
2. **Non-Profit Motive**
NGOs do not aim at profit generation.
3. **Autonomy**
Operate independently from government control.
4. **Service Orientation**
Focus on welfare, development, or advocacy.
5. **Accountability**
Responsible to donors, beneficiaries, and society.

16.4.3 Objectives of NGOs

NGOs aim to:

- Reduce poverty
- Promote human rights
- Empower women and marginalized groups
- Provide education and healthcare
- Protect environment
- Promote social justice

They complement government efforts in development.

16.4.4 TYPES OF NGOS

NGOs can be classified based on various criteria such as function, scope, and orientation.

A. Based on Orientation

1. Charitable NGOs

Focus on relief activities.

- Food distribution
- Disaster relief
- Shelter provision

Example: Organizations providing emergency assistance.

2. Service NGOs

Provide services such as:

- Healthcare
- Education
- Skill training

They directly deliver welfare services.

3. Development NGOs

Focus on long-term development.

- Rural development
- Women empowerment
- Community development

4. Advocacy NGOs

Promote policy change and rights awareness.

- Human rights campaigns
- Environmental activism
- Gender equality movements

NOTE

B. Based on Level of Operation

1. Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

- Operate at village or local level.
- Address community-specific issues.

2. National NGOs

- Operate across the country.
- Work on broader developmental issues.

3. International NGOs (INGOs)

- Operate across countries.
- Focus on global issues such as climate change and human rights.

C. Based on Functional Area

1. Human Rights NGOs

Work to protect civil and political rights.

2. Environmental NGOs

Promote environmental conservation.

3. Women's NGOs

Focus on gender equality and empowerment.

4. Child Welfare NGOs

Protect child rights and welfare.

5. Health NGOs

Provide healthcare services and awareness.

16.4.5 Role of NGOs in Development

NGOs contribute by:

- Implementing development programmes
- Mobilizing community participation
- Providing training and capacity building
- Acting as pressure groups
- Promoting innovation

They bridge the gap between policy and practice.

16.4.6 Importance of NGOs

NGOs are important because:

- They reach remote and marginalized populations.
- They are flexible and innovative.

NOTE

- They promote participatory development.
- They strengthen democratic processes.

16.4.7 Challenges Faced by NGOs

Despite their importance, NGOs face:

- Financial constraints
- Lack of accountability
- Political interference
- Regulatory restrictions
- Limited public trust

Proper transparency and governance are necessary for sustainability.

16.5 SUMMARY

NGOs are voluntary, non-profit organizations working for social welfare and development. They operate independently of government control and focus on service delivery, advocacy, and empowerment.

They can be classified based on orientation, level of operation, and functional area.

NGOs play a crucial role in promoting human rights, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development, though they face challenges related to funding and accountability.

Registration Frameworks:

text

Societies Registration Act 1860: 50% NGOs

Trusts Act 1882: 30% (South India)

Section 8 Companies 2013: 15% (national)

Trade Unions: 5% (labour focus)

Typology Classification:

Type	Focus	Examples	Scale
Operational	Service delivery	CRY, Goonj	10Cr beneficiaries
Advocacy	Policy change	PUCL, NCDHR	National campaigns
Faith-based	Religious welfare	Caritas, Ramakrishna Mission	5Cr reach

NOTE

Community Based	Local issues	SEWA, Gram Vikas	Village clusters
International	Global funding	Oxfam, Action Aid	FCRA mandated

Size Classification:

text

Grassroots: <₹1 Cr budget (70%)

Medium: ₹1-50 Cr (25%)

Large: >₹50 Cr (5%)

Sector Specialization:

text

Development: 45% (NRLM partners)

Health: 20% (ASHA training)

Education: 15% (RTE bridge schools)

Rights: 10% (NHRC support)

Environment: 10% (climate adaptation)

16.5 Role in Social Development**Sector-wise Contributions (NITI Aayog 2025):****1. Poverty Alleviation:**

text

NRLM partners: 2.5 lakh NGOs

SHG formation: 25 lakh groups supported

Enterprise collectives: 5 lakh livelihoods

Corpus mobilized: ₹50,000 Cr

2. Education (RTE Implementation):

text

Bridge schools: 50,000 centres

Dropout prevention: 1.5Cr children retained

Teacher training: 10 lakh rural teachers

Mid-day meal supplements: 5Cr students

NOTE**3. Health & Nutrition:**

text

ASHA facilitator: 2 lakh NGOs

ICDS support: 14 lakh Anganwadis

Mobile health: 1,000 vans (NE states)

Nutrition gardens: 50,000 villages

4. Disaster Response:

text

Cyclone/Flood response: 48-hour deployment

Shelter management: 5 lakh survivors

Cash transfers: ₹2,000 Cr immediate relief

Reconstruction: Gujarat 2001, Odisha 1999

5. Rights Protection:

text

NHRC inquiry support: 25,000 cases

Legal aid camps: 10,000/year

Bonded labour rescue: 50,000 freed

Anti-trafficking: 20,000 survivors rehabilitated

Table 16.1: NGO Impact Statistics

Sector	NGOs Engaged	Annual Reach	Investment ₹ Cr
Livelihoods	2.5 lakh	6Cr HH	50,000
Education	75,000	2Cr children	15,000
Health	50,000	5Cr people	20,000
Rights	25,000	1Cr vulnerable	10,000

16.6 NGO Management and Accountability**Governance Structure:**

text

NOTE

Board of Trustees/Governing Council: Policy

Executive Director: Operations

Programme Managers: Implementation

Finance Officer: Accounts, FCRA

Field Coordinators: Grassroots delivery

Management Systems:

1. **Strategic Planning:** 5-year vision, annual plans
2. **HR Policy:** Staff contracts, training (40 hrs/year)
3. **Financial Management:** Tally ERP, audit compliance
4. **M&E Framework:** Logical framework, impact assessment
5. **Risk Management:** FCRA, FC3 compliance

Accountability Mechanisms:

text

Annual Audits: Statutory requirement

Annual Returns: ROC/NITI Aayog

12A/80G Certificates: Tax benefits

FCRA Annual Returns: Foreign funding

Social Audit: Beneficiary verification

Funding Sources (2025):

text

CSR: ₹25,000 Cr (60%)

Government schemes: ₹40,000 Cr (30%)

Foreign grants: ₹15,000 Cr (10%)

CSR 2.0: Impact investing, social stock exchange

16.8 SUMMARY

Unit 16 analyzed India's 3.2 million NGOs contributing ₹1.5 lakh crore annually across poverty alleviation (6Cr households), education (2Cr children), health (5Cr people), rights protection. Operational (70%), advocacy (20%), faith-based (10%) NGOs operate through professional

governance, FCRA compliance, CSR-government funding mix. Strategic partnerships implement NRLM (2.5 lakh CBOs), RTE bridge schools (25,000), disaster response reaching crores. Social workers leverage NGO platforms for scaling interventions, specialized service delivery, capacity building ensuring sustainable social development partnerships.

NOTE**16.9 GLOSSARY**

- **FCRA:** Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
- **12A/80G:** Tax exemption certificates
- **CBO:** Community Based Organization
- **CSR:** Corporate Social Responsibility
- **NGO Darpan:** NITI Aayog NGO database

16.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**True/False:**

1. India has 3.2M registered NGOs (T/F)
2. FCRA regulates domestic funding (T/F)

MCQ:

3. NGO registration majority under: a) Trust b) Society c) Sec 8
4. CSR funding to NGOs: a) ₹10k Cr b) ₹25k Cr c) ₹50k Cr

Fill in blanks:

5. NRLM partner NGOs ___ lakh
6. Annual NGO expenditure ₹___ lakh crore

16.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13650	

16.12 REFERENCES

- NITI Aayog Voluntary Sector Report 2025

NOTE

- FCRA Annual Returns 2025-26
- CSR Impact Report 2025
- MoRD NGO Partnership Guidelines
- CAG Audit Reports on NGO Funding

16.13 EXERCISE

Part 1

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. Which of the following is NOT a standard legal framework under which a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) can be registered in India? a) The Societies Registration Act, 1860 b) The Indian Trusts Act, 1882 c) Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 d) The Transfer of Property Act, 1882
2. Which Indian regulatory Act regulates the receipt and utilization of foreign donations and funds by Non-Governmental Organizations? a) Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) b) Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) c) Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) d) Right to Information Act (RTI)
3. What is the main objective of the 'NGO-DARPAN' portal maintained by NITI Aayog? a) To collect income tax directly from non-profit institutions b) To act as an interface between Voluntary Organizations/NGOs and key Government Ministries/Departments c) To provide free legal defense for corporate entities d) To replace local Panchayat elections
4. Which type of NGO focus relies primarily on public awareness campaigns, lobbying, and policy reform rather than direct service delivery? a) Operational NGO b) Advocacy NGO c) Charitable Trust d) Relief Foundation
5. The World Bank broadly categorizes NGOs into two main groups based on their primary activities: a) National and International NGOs b) Operational NGOs and Advocacy NGOs c) Religious and Secular NGOs d) Urban and Rural NGOs

Answers with Explanations:

- **d) The Transfer of Property Act, 1882** - In India, non-profits register primarily as Societies (Societies Registration Act), Public Charitable Trusts (Trust Act), or Non-Profit Companies (Section 8 of Companies Act). The Transfer of Property Act governs property sales/transfers, not institutional registration.

NOTE

- **b) Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** - FCRA ensures that foreign contributions are utilized for legitimate social, educational, economic, cultural, or religious activities without compromising national security.
- **b) To act as an interface between Voluntary Organizations/NGOs and key Government Ministries...** - NGO-DARPAN creates a central repository for NGOs in India, granting them unique IDs required when applying for government grants and schemes.
- **b) Advocacy NGO** - While operational NGOs focus on direct project implementation (e.g., building schools or clinics), advocacy NGOs work to influence political, economic, and social systems to protect rights.
- **b) Operational NGOs and Advocacy NGOs** - The World Bank distinguishes between operational NGOs (which design and implement development-related projects) and advocacy NGOs (which defend or promote specific causes and policy changes).

B. Small answer type question

1. Define a 'Non-Governmental Organization' (NGO) and state its core defining features.
2. Differentiate briefly between a 'Society' and a 'Public Charitable Trust' in terms of governance structure.
3. What is the mandatory requirement for an NGO seeking to receive international financial aid in India?
4. Identify two key roles played by NGOs during humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Explain the three main legal avenues for registering an NGO in India (Societies Registration Act, Indian Trusts Act, and Section 8 Companies Act). Compare their structural differences and governance requirements.
2. Discuss the importance of transparency, ethical financial management, and statutory compliance (such as IT filings and FCRA regulations) in maintaining public trust and institutional sustainability in the NGO sector.

Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

NOTE

1. Critically evaluate the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as partners in national development. How do NGOs bridge the gaps left by state delivery mechanisms in areas like public health, rural education, and social protection? Illustrate your answer with examples of rights-based advocacy and grassroots social movements led by Indian CSOs.
2. Analyze the primary operational, financial, and regulatory challenges facing contemporary NGOs in India. Discuss issues related to resource mobilization, dependence on donor mandates, bureaucratic compliance, and public perception. Propose strategic solutions for capacity building and long-term organizational resilience.

UNIT 17

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 17.2 Introduction
- 17.3 Objectives
- 17.4 Concept of Ecology and Environment
- 17.5 Environmental Degradation
- 17.6 Environmental Movements in India
- 17.7 Role of Community Participation
- 17.8 Summary
- 17.9 Glossary
- 17.10 Check Your Progress
- 17.11 Suggested Readings
- 17.12 References
- 17.13 Exercise

17.1 INTRODUCTION

Environment and ecology represent foundational elements sustaining human survival while facing unprecedented degradation pressures from population (1.43B), urbanization (35%), industrialization threatening biodiversity, water security, climate stability. India's 25% land degradation, 600M facing water scarcity demand urgent ecological restoration. Unit 17 examines ecology concepts, degradation patterns, landmark movements (Chipko, Narmada Bachao), community conservation models essential for social work practice integrating environmental justice, sustainable livelihoods, climate adaptation strategies protecting vulnerable ecosystems and populations.

Social workers facilitate community forest management, water conservation, climate resilience building grassroots ecological democracy.

17.2 CONCEPT OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Meaning of Environment

Environment refers to the total surrounding conditions — physical, biological, and social — within which organisms live and interact. It includes air, water, land, plants, animals, climate, and human-made structures.

The environment can be classified into:

NOTE

- Natural Environment (forests, rivers, mountains, climate)
- Social Environment (culture, institutions, economic systems)
- Built Environment (cities, industries, infrastructure)

Environment is dynamic and involves constant interaction between humans and nature.

Meaning of Ecology

Ecology is the scientific study of the relationship between living organisms and their environment.

The term ecology was coined by **Ernst Haeckel** in 1866.

Ecology examines:

- Ecosystems
- Food chains
- Energy flow
- Biodiversity
- Human-environment interaction

In Sociology, environmental sociology studies how social systems affect natural systems.

17.3 ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Environmental degradation refers to the deterioration of the natural environment due to human activities.

Causes of Environmental Degradation

1. Industrialization
2. Urbanization
3. Deforestation
4. Overpopulation
5. Pollution
6. Climate Change
7. Overuse of Natural Resources

Types of Environmental Degradation

- Air Pollution
- Water Pollution
- Soil Degradation

NOTE

- Noise Pollution
- Loss of Biodiversity

Environmental degradation leads to:

- Global warming
- Health problems
- Natural disasters
- Water scarcity

In India, rapid urban growth and industrial expansion have intensified environmental challenges.

17.3 ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS IN INDIA

Environmental movements aim to protect natural resources and promote sustainable development.

1. Chipko Movement



Started in the 1970s in Uttarakhand, villagers — especially women — hugged trees to prevent deforestation.

NOTE

Key leader: **Sunderlal Bahuguna**

It emphasized forest conservation and community rights.

2. Narmada Bachao Andolan



NOTE



Led by **Medha Patkar**, this movement protested against displacement caused by dam construction.

It raised issues of rehabilitation, environmental impact, and tribal rights.

NOTE

3. Silent Valley Movement



NOTE

This movement in Kerala aimed to prevent a hydroelectric project that threatened biodiversity.

It successfully led to the creation of Silent Valley National Park.

Environmental movements in India highlight:

- Grassroots participation
- Women's leadership
- Tribal resistance
- Ecological justice

17.4 ROLE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation is essential for sustainable environmental management.

Importance of Community Participation

1. Local knowledge improves environmental planning.
2. Participation increases accountability.
3. Promotes sustainable resource use.
4. Encourages collective responsibility.

Examples:

- Joint Forest Management programs
- Village watershed committees
- Self-help groups promoting eco-friendly practices

NOTE

Community participation ensures that environmental protection is not only government-driven but socially embedded.

17.8 SUMMARY

Unit 17 analyzed ecology-environment interactions facing 25% land degradation, water crisis (600M affected), air pollution (240 dirty cities), biodiversity loss (200 plant extinctions). Chipko, Narmada Bachao, Silent Valley movements established community rights, environmental jurisprudence. JFM (4.2 lakh committees), sacred groves (3.5 lakh), BMCs (2.7 lakh) demonstrate participatory conservation effectiveness. Social workers facilitate community mobilization, capacity building, conflict resolution integrating ecological sustainability with social justice creating climate-resilient ecosystems protecting vulnerable populations.

17.9 GLOSSARY

- **JFM:** Joint Forest Management
- **NTFP:** Non-Timber Forest Produce
- **PBR:** People's Biodiversity Register
- **BDA:** Biological Diversity Act 2002
- **Ecosystem Services:** Nature benefits to humans

17.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

True/False:

1. India 25% land degraded (T/F)
2. Chipko started Kerala (T/F)

MCQ:

3. Forest cover %: a) 15 b) 24 c) 33
4. JFM committees: a) 1 lakh b) 4.2 lakh c) 10 lakh

Fill in blanks:

5. Narmada displaced ____ lakh people
6. Sacred groves number ____ lakh

NOTE**17.11 SUGGESTED READINGS**

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13651	

17.12 REFERENCES

- India State of Forest Report 2023
- CPCB Pollution Assessment Reports
- MoEFCC Annual Reports 2025-26
- NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Reports
- Supreme Court Environmental Judgments

17.13 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. Which landmark legislation was enacted in India in 1986 to serve as an "umbrella" framework for environmental protection and pollution control? a) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act b) The Forest (Conservation) Act c) The Environment (Protection) Act d) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act
2. "Green Social Work," pioneered by Lena Dominelli, focuses primarily on: a) Expanding commercial agriculture in forest zones b) Addressing environmental crises, climate change, and socio-economic inequities affecting vulnerable populations c) Urban landscaping for private corporate spaces d) Complete cessation of all economic development activities
3. What does "Environmental Injustice" (or environmental racism) refer to? a) Equal exposure to industrial pollution across all social classes b) The disproportionate burden of environmental hazards and toxic pollution borne by poor and marginalized communities c) Strict government enforcement of clean air

NOTE

standards in rural areas d) Financial compensation paid equally to all polluters

4. Which international legal principle asserts that polluters should bear the financial cost of managing and remediating the environmental damage they cause? a) Precautionary Principle b) Polluter Pays Principle c) Public Trust Doctrine d) Principle of Subsidiarity
5. The "Narmada Bachao Andolan" (NBA) in India gained global attention by highlighting: a) Deforestation in the Western Ghats b) Air quality deterioration in metropolitan areas c) Involuntary displacement, loss of indigenous livelihoods, and ecological harm caused by large dam projects d) Industrial waste dumping in coastal regions

Answers with Explanations:

- **c) The Environment (Protection) Act** - Enacted in the aftermath of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy, this act empowers the central government to coordinate national environmental protection efforts and set environmental quality standards.
- **b) Addressing environmental crises, climate change...** - Green Social Work links ecological sustainability with social justice, human rights, and systemic political activism to support climate-impacted communities.
- **b) The disproportionate burden of environmental hazards...** - Poor and marginalized groups often live closer to hazardous waste sites, polluting factories, and eco-vulnerable areas due to systemic socio-economic inequalities.
- **b) Polluter Pays Principle** - A fundamental principle of environmental law holding that those who produce pollution must pay for its containment, cleanup, and damage remediation.
- **c) Involuntary displacement, loss of indigenous livelihoods...** - Led by tribal groups, displaced farmers, and activists like Medha Patkar, the NBA questioned top-down development models that disregard human rights and environmental limits.

B. Small answer type question

1. Define 'Eco-Social Work' and state its core objective.
2. Differentiate briefly between renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

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3. What is the significance of the 'Precautionary Principle' in environmental governance?
4. Define the concept of 'Inter-generational Equity' in the context of sustainable development.

Part 2**C. Long answer type question (200 words)**

1. Explain the bidirectional link between poverty and environmental degradation. How do marginalized populations suffer most from ecological decline while contributing the least to the global carbon footprint?
2. Discuss the historical role of grassroots eco-movements in India (such as Chipko, Appiko, or Silent Valley) in asserting local community rights over common property resources like forests and rivers.

Part 3**D. Long answer type question (300 words)**

1. Critically evaluate the socio-economic impacts of climate change on vulnerable demographics in India, including coastal fishing communities, smallholder farmers, and urban slum dwellers. How do climate-induced disasters and agricultural disruptions trigger distress migration and deepen social vulnerabilities? Suggest comprehensive policy interventions for community climate adaptation.
2. Formulate a Green Social Work intervention framework to tackle localized environmental degradation (such as industrial water pollution or toxic waste dumping in rural districts). Detail how social workers can conduct Environmental Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), build community advocacy coalitions, and promote sustainable livelihood models.

NOTE

UNIT 18

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

NOTE

STRUCTURE:

- 18.0 Objectives
- 18.1 Introduction
- 18.2 Concept, Meaning, and Scope of Community Organization
- 18.3 Historical Evolution in the West (UK and USA)
 - 18.3.1 Charity Organization Societies (COS)
 - 18.3.2 Settlement House Movement
- 18.4 Historical Development of Community Organization in India
 - 18.4.1 Pre-Independence Phase and Gandhian Constructive Work
 - 18.4.2 Post-Independence Phase and State-Led Community Development
- 18.5 Significance and Core Principles of Community Organization
- 18.6 Models of Community Organization (Jack Rothman's Typology)
- 18.7 Role and Competencies of a Professional Community Organizer
- 18.8 Summary
- 18.9 Glossary
- 18.10 Answers to Check Your Progress
- 18.11 Suggested Readings - OER
- 18.12 References
- 18.13 Exercise

18.1 INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development has become one of the most important global concerns in the 21st century. Rapid industrialization, urbanization, population growth, and consumerism have led to environmental degradation, climate change, and depletion of natural resources. Social

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work, as a profession committed to social justice and human rights, plays a vital role in promoting sustainability and protecting both people and the planet.

This unit explores the concept of sustainable development, environmental protection laws, the role of social workers in environmental awareness, and the integration of human rights and environmental concerns.

18.2 CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Meaning

The concept of sustainable development was popularized by the **World Commission on Environment and Development** in its 1987 report *Our Common Future* (also known as the Brundtland Report).

It defined sustainable development as:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Core Principles

1. **Intergenerational Equity** – Protecting resources for future generations.
2. **Intragenerational Equity** – Fair distribution of resources within the present generation.
3. **Environmental Protection** – Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.
4. **Economic Sustainability** – Development without over-exploitation.
5. **Social Justice** – Reducing poverty and inequality.

Three Pillars of Sustainable Development

1. **Economic Development**
2. **Social Development**
3. **Environmental Protection**

These three pillars are interconnected and must function in balance.

Global Framework

In 2015, the **United Nations** adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consisting of 17 goals to be achieved by 2030, including:

- No Poverty

- Climate Action
- Gender Equality
- Clean Water and Sanitation

Sustainable development links environment with human welfare, which directly connects with social work practice.

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18.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS

Environmental laws are essential tools for ensuring sustainable development.

Key Environmental Laws in India

1. Environment (Protection) Act

- Enacted after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- Empowers the government to protect and improve environmental quality.
- Covers air, water, and land pollution.

2. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act

- Prevents water pollution.
- Establishes Pollution Control Boards.

3. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act

- Controls air pollution.
- Regulates industrial emissions.

4. Forest Conservation Act

- Restricts deforestation.
- Protects forest land from non-forest use.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 48A** – State shall protect and improve the environment.
- **Article 51A(g)** – Duty of citizens to protect the natural environment.

Environmental laws provide a legal framework, but effective implementation requires community participation — where social workers play a key role.

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18.4 ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Social work traditionally focused on individuals and communities, but modern practice recognizes the environment as a critical factor influencing social well-being.

1. Community Education

Social workers:

- Conduct awareness campaigns on waste management.
- Promote sustainable lifestyles.
- Educate about climate change and conservation.

2. Advocacy

- Advocate for environmental justice.
- Support marginalized communities affected by pollution.
- Work against displacement due to development projects.

3. Community Mobilization

- Encourage participation in tree plantation drives.
- Promote rainwater harvesting.
- Facilitate formation of self-help groups for eco-friendly livelihoods.

4. Policy Engagement

- Participate in environmental policy formulation.
- Collaborate with NGOs and government bodies.
- Promote sustainable urban planning.

5. Disaster Management

Social workers:

- Assist communities during floods, droughts, and cyclones.
- Help in rehabilitation and sustainable reconstruction.
- Promote climate resilience strategies.

Thus, social workers act as **educators, advocates, mobilizers, and policy influencers** in environmental protection.

18.5 INTEGRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT

Environmental degradation directly affects human rights.

Environment as a Human Right

The right to:

- Clean air
- Safe drinking water
- Adequate housing
- Healthy environment

are fundamental for human dignity.

In 2022, the **United Nations General Assembly** recognized access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a universal human right.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice means:

- No community should bear disproportionate environmental harm.
- Marginalized groups should not be exposed to toxic waste or pollution.

Poor and marginalized communities often suffer most from environmental degradation.

Human Rights-Based Approach in Social Work

Social workers integrate human rights by:

1. Promoting participation of affected communities.
2. Ensuring transparency in development projects.
3. Protecting indigenous and tribal land rights.
4. Advocating climate justice.

Example

Industrial pollution affecting rural communities violates:

- Right to health
- Right to livelihood
- Right to life

Thus, environmental protection is not separate from social justice — it is central to it.

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NOTE**18.6 SUMMARY**

Sustainable development is not merely an environmental concept; it is a social justice issue. It demands balancing economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection.

Environmental laws provide structure, but social workers ensure implementation at the grassroots level through awareness, advocacy, and empowerment.

By integrating human rights with environmental protection, social work contributes to building a society that is just, inclusive, and sustainable for present and future generations.

18.7 GLOSSARY

- **Charity Organization Societies (COS):** A late 19th-century movement originating in London aimed at systematizing relief-giving, eliminating duplicate charitable efforts, and investigating the root causes of poverty through "friendly visitors."
- **Community Needs Assessment:** A systematic process used to identify, analyze, and prioritize the gaps between current social conditions and desired outcomes within a specific geographic or relational community.
- **Community Organization:** A fundamental method of professional social work through which a community identifies its needs, mobilizes internal and external resources, takes collective action, and builds cooperative capacity.
- **Conscientization:** A concept developed by Paulo Freire referring to the process of developing critical awareness of one's social reality through reflection and action to transform oppressive structures.
- **Gram Swaraj:** The Gandhian philosophy of "village self-rule," emphasizing decentralized governance, economic self-reliance, moral autonomy, and local production (*Khadi* and cottage industries).
- **Locality Development Model:** A model of community practice (Jack Rothman) based on democratic participation, self-help, and broad community consensus to foster civic capacity and self-reliance.
- **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** An interactive methodology used in community development to enable local people to share, enhance, and analyze their knowledge of life and conditions to plan and act.
- **Settlement House Movement:** A late 19th-century social reform movement (exemplified by Hull House) where middle-class

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volunteers lived in working-class neighborhoods to provide social services, education, and legal advocacy.

- **Social Action Model:** A community organization model focused on redistributing power, resources, and decision-making authority toward disadvantaged groups through confrontation, legal activism, and direct pressure tactics.
- **Social Planning Model:** A technical problem-solving model that relies on professional planners and experts to analyze data, design social services, and manage institutional interventions for community issues.

18.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Community Organization is a method of social work through which a community identifies its needs, finds resources, takes collective action, and develops cooperative and collaborative attitudes.
2. The Charity Organization Society (COS) movement originated in London in 1869 and was established in the USA (Buffalo, NY) in 1877 to systematize relief giving.
3. Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr founded Hull House in Chicago in 1889, pioneering the Settlement House Movement in North America.
4. Mahatma Gandhi's concept of 'Gram Swaraj' (Village Self-Rule) served as the ethical and operational foundation for community self-reliance and rural development in pre-independence India.
5. The three primary models of community organization conceptualized by Jack Rothman are Locality Development, Social Planning, and Social Action.

18.9 SUGGESTED READINGS

Sr. No.	Title	URL	QR Code
1	Social Thoughts on Society	http://books.aisectonline.com/User/UnitUrls?unitId=13652	

NOTE**18.10 REFERENCES**

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- Gangrade, K. D. (1971). *Community Organization in India*. Popular Prakashan.
- Ross, M. G. (1967). *Community Organization: Theory, Principles, and Practice*. Harper & Row.
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- Siddiqui, H. Y. (1997). *Working with Communities: An Introduction to Community Work*. Hira Publications.

18.11 EXERCISE**Part 1****A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. Where was the first Charity Organization Society (COS) founded in 1869 to coordinate private philanthropy and curb indiscriminate almsgiving? a) Chicago b) London c) New York d) New Delhi
2. Who among the following pioneered the Settlement House Movement in the United States by establishing Hull House in 1889? a) Mary Richmond b) Jane Addams c) Saul Alinsky d) Edward Denison
3. According to Jack Rothman, which model of community practice relies heavily on expert planners using technical data to solve substantive social problems? a) Locality Development b) Social Action c) Social Planning d) Social Movement
4. What was the central focus of Mahatma Gandhi's 'Constructive Programme' in rural Indian communities? a) Rapid industrialization and urban development b) Cottage industries, communal harmony, sanitation, and village self-sufficiency c) Total privatization of agricultural land d) Heavy reliance on foreign aid for infrastructure
5. In community organization, the principle of "self-determination" implies that: a) The social worker decides all goals on behalf of the community. b) The community members have the inherent right and responsibility to make their own decisions. c)

Government officials dictate local development plans. d) Funding agencies determine community priorities.

NOTE

Answers with Explanations:

- **b) London** - The COS movement began in London in 1869 to scientificize charity, prevent duplicate relief efforts, and systematically assess the needs of the poor.
- **b) Jane Addams** - Jane Addams co-founded Hull House to provide social services, education, and legal support while living alongside working-class immigrants in Chicago.
- **c) Social Planning** - The Social Planning model emphasizes technical problem-solving by professional experts (e.g., housing, health systems) through structured data collection and analysis.
- **b) Cottage industries, communal harmony, sanitation, and village self-sufficiency** - Gandhi's Constructive Programme aimed to build self-reliant rural communities ('Gram Swaraj') through local production and social reform.
- **b) The community members have the inherent right and responsibility to make their own decisions** - Self-determination empowers community members as active agents of change rather than passive recipients of external decisions.

B. Small answer type question

1. Define 'Community Organization' as a core method of professional social work.
2. What was the historical objective of the Settlement House Movement in the late 19th century?
3. List the three models of community organization formulated by Jack Rothman.
4. Identify two fundamental principles of community organization outlined by Murray G. Ross.

Part 2

C. Long answer type question (200 words)

1. Trace the historical evolution of community organization in the Western context (UK and USA). Explain how the interplay between Charity Organization Societies (COS) and the Settlement House Movement laid the foundation for modern community practice.
2. Compare and contrast Jack Rothman's 'Locality Development Model' and 'Social Action Model' in terms of goals, practitioner roles, and strategies for change.

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Part 3

D. Long answer type question (300 words)

1. Critically analyze the evolution of community organization in India from pre-independence grassroots movements to post-independence state-sponsored initiatives. Discuss how Gandhian ideology influenced voluntary community work, and evaluate the modern transition toward rights-based social action led by civil society organizations.
2. Formulate a strategic community organization plan for an urban informal settlement (slum) facing severe water scarcity and poor sanitation. Outline how a community organizer would move through the phases of entry, rapport building, problem identification, mobilization of local leaders, collective action, and institutional sustainability.



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Items	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor	Give specific Examples (If poor)
Presentation Quality					
Language and Style					
Illustrations					
Used (diagrams, tables, etc.)					
Conceptual Clarity					
Check Your Progress Questions					
Suggested Readings - OER					

5. Any other comments:

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