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Chapter 21

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction

Development simply means an over-all social process which is dependent upon the outcome of man's efforts to deal with his natural environment (Anyaogu: 1990). Implicit from this definition is that whatever effort man made to deal with his immediate natural environment to sustain livelihood is development.

In Nigeria, there is economistic notion of development and it is very unfortunate because most of the problems we are faced with in the country today have resulted because we have failed to address ourselves to the importance of social development and to improve the quality of life of the people.

The role of social work in relation to current national development goals cannot be over-emphasized. Nigeria is at present faced with myraid of social problems. These include poverty, unemployment, delinquency, crime, illiteracy, family instability, drug and alcohol addiction, corruption, and finally child abuse and neglect to mention but a few. The phenomena of urbanisation, economic uncertainties as well as cross-culturalization are producing norm and value conflicts in our society. These in turn result in personal insecurities for many individuals and also increased problems in interpersonal relationship. Social workers are capable of applying professional knowledge and planned skilled intervention to the various problem situations in order to assist those concerned, and thereby help to promote national development in our country. Thus, the main objective of this work is to examine the role of social work in national development. In doing this, we should make effort to cover:

(a) What is Social Work

(b) Purpose and Functions of Social Work
(c) Brief History of Social Work in Nigeria
(d) Target Population
(e) Methods of Social Work Practice
(f) Intervention in Social Work: A Case Example
(g) Scope of Social Work

What is Social Work?

The role of social work in National Development in Nigeria is at a very beginning stage. This is because social work is a new profession in Nigeria. It then needs to ask: *what is social work?* According to Pincus and Minahan (1973), Social work is "concerned with the interactions between people and their social environment which effect the ability of people to accomplish their life tasks, alleviate distress and realise their aspirations and values". Stroup (1960) says that "social work is the art of bringing various resources to bear on individual, group and community needs by the application of a scientific method of helping people to help themselves".

Finally, Leonard (1976) suggests that "radical social work aims first at education designed to develop in people, particularly the disadvantaged, a critical awareness of their needs and oppression, secondly, social work links people with various systems in the environment which serve their needs, and thirdly, it builds counter systems to facilitate change in existing systems and also aims at providing short term direct material and emotional assistance and this aim must be accompanied by education". Social work is a professional help to a person or a community through professional technique, which involves the study and understanding of human behaviour, needs and potentialities. It is a process of working with people on professional level, with a view to helping the persons to help themselves.

Purpose and Functions of Social Work

The purpose and functions of social work according to Pincus and Minehan (1973) are:

i. **Purpose of Social Work**

(a) Enhance the problem solving and coping capacities of

people.

(b) Link people with system that provide them with resources, services and opportunities.

(c) Promote the effective and human operation of these systems.

(d) Contribute to the development and improvement of social policy.

ii. Functions of Social Work

Seven major functions of social workers in carrying out the purposes of the profession can be differentiated. The intervention activities and tasks performed by social workers are designed to accomplish one or more of the following functions:

(a) Help people enhance and more effectively utilise their own problem solving and coping capacities.

(b) Establish initial linkages between people and resource systems.

(c) Facilitate interaction and modify and build new relationships between people and societal resources systems.

(d) Facilitate interaction and modify and build relationships between people within resource systems.

(e) Contribute to the development and modification of social policy.

(f) Dispense material resources.

(g) Serve as agents of social control.

From the foregoing therefore, it cannot be over-emphasized that social work has a lot to contribute in the national development. Neglect of social factors at the planning stage of national development will surely bring the country into social confusion which, in turn will impede economic growth, impose severe economic constraints and further exacerbate social problems.

According to Fergason (1963) "in social work, there is the belief that:

(a) Human being is important. He is the centre of all human activities.

(b) Human beings as they interact with others, enrich the lives of one another and in addition, they encounter personal,

family and community problems. They encounter problems of drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, poverty, income gaps, malnutrition, ignorance and other social problems arise.

(c) Also, there is a belief that people can change, that something can be done to alleviate these problems and improve the quality of life for people". Social work is therefore a professional service aimed at helping individuals, groups, and communities use various resources available in the environment to achieve human betterment.

Historical Development of Social Work in Nigeria

Generally, social work is an internationally recognised profession. In the history of the development of social work, poverty and poverty related problems as well as problems arising from the operation of the capitalist system of economy on one hand and the evolution of spirituality on the other brought about the formation of the Charity Organisation Society (COS) in London in 1862. The Charity Organisation Society (COS) is perceived as the ancestor of social work.

Thus, as a deliberate concern for helping the indigent and less privileged members of the society, the roots of social work go back to religious and humanitarian impulses evident in the histories of most civilizations. In fact, social work is an accompaniment of 19th and 20th centuries industrialization, with its associated problems of social dislocation from a more stabilised family and community system. The aspirations of positivist social science and the counter view points to social Darwinism in the late 19th century contributed to the conviction that rational and scientific solutions to social problems could be found through reform and individual guidance. The trend has been from personal and religious charity, to organised philanthropy, to public acceptance of responsibility for programmes of professional services.

A professional social work emerged during the 20th century, when it became an acknowledged, full time occupation, with established training schools, professional associations and a high degree of self consciousness about its status.

It is clear that the profession of social work started in Britain

and spread to America and to other countries of the world including Nigeria.

In Nigeria and in other developing countries, the problem is different from that mentioned earlier. Social welfare practices in pre-colonial times in Nigeria were informal and generally the result of an understanding of the laws of nature as these were predicated, controlled and applied in the satisfaction of felt social needs. Pre-colonial welfare, according to Mere (1987), was "oriented more or less to collectivities. It also emphasized mutual inter-dependence and a high degree of reciprocity in virtually all aspects of human existence, labour exchange, social ceremonies, socialisation, and care of young members of a kin group, parent-child relationships and aid in time of need and war". The clan, kin-group and family needs and interests were subsidiary. The welfare services were preventive and comprehensive in that the welfare systems, that is, the family, kin group, community and clan provided various types of socio-economic insurance and emotional support. These welfare systems also served political, educational, religious and other needs of the members.

The introduction of colonialism, money economy, western education and western culture into Nigeria resulted in change in the social work practices. We remember how Nigeria became a British possession in 1884 and was amalgamated in 1914 and independent politically in 1960. We know also from history that the British brought social work here and that until very recently, even after our political independence, the practice of social work was more or less a carbon copy of what was obtained in Britain. Most of our colonial and post-independence social work practices are taken from the western world without modification.

As would be expected in social work practice in Nigeria during the colonial era, the colonial policy according to Ekpe (1987), accentuated the differences in the country by allowing the south to be evangelised while the north remained moslem, by creating a gap in education between the north and the south and by developing the town while ignoring the rural areas where a vast majority of the people live and produce food for the town dwellers.

Problems of impoverished peasant, unemployment, crime, polarization of society into haves and have nots, prostitution, rural-urban migration, urban slums, general under-development and uncritical acceptance of western values and rejection of some traditional ideas and the disruption of some what self-sufficient socio-economic milieu were among the pervasive social ills during the colonial period. But most of these problems were not only a direct result of economic and political changes, their continuation was a necessary condition for the prevailing political economy of the colonial era. For example, the economic deprivation of farmers and traders alike was necessary for the colonial policy of limiting expenditure, while increasing export production.

Given this situation, traditional forms of social protection could no longer cope with the complex social problems but British colonial government being more interested in achieving her own ends, which were antithetical to the welfare needs of Nigerians, postulated a plan for social welfare that emphasized adjustment rather than change of the existing social order. The theories of social work practice, such as system theory, structural functionalism, pathology model of social work practice etc introduced into Nigeria, sought to divert attention from causes to effects. They generally subscribed to the maintenance of the status quo.

Nigeria is doing much to transform that practice and make it more adapted to our own cultural context and more responsive to the particular needs of the Nigerian people. One simply needs to call to mind the different National Development Plans. We seek to address the needs of the people, including social welfare needs. Think of the social Development Decree of 1974, the creation of the Social Development Directorate, was the first official Nigeria independent recognition and commitment to social welfare. From there, the Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Sports was created, followed by the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

The later developments reflect the effort to adjust to political and socio-economic demands. This is part of the struggle that is normally noticed. Even in America, during the 1970s and 1980s,

social work was housed within the Health Education and Welfare Department. The governments in this country are trying. The one of Professionalism and professional practice now lie on the professionals.

Target Population

It is pertinent to ask: what groups in the population should be served by social work as part of its contribution to national development? Social work as a helping profession has the entire population as the target to render social work services. A profession must serve an entire population rather than special groups. This does not mean that at certain times certain segments of the population could not be singled out for special attention and services and others are deliberately assigned lesser priority as is currently the case with the disabled, war casualties and limitations in manpower often lead to priority area.

According to Mere (1980), "social work consumers of service should include:

(a) Those who show the impact of societal flaws and deficiencies present in the social structure, that is, the victims of poverty, unemployment and discrimination.

(b) Those whose social functioning is impaired because available social resources are inadequate or not well known (loans to farmers).

(c) Those who do not have access to existing resources, example, the masses who lack access to money, jobs, national cake, etc.

(d) Those who know of resources and would avail themselves of them, but lack the social, intellectual and emotional skills to make use of the resources, example, highly disorganised families, those with psychological disabilities".

Methods of Social Work Practice

Traditionally, we have case work, social group work and Community Development or organisation. At a latter date, administration, research, and social planning methods were added to the list of core methods of social work practice. Through these methods. social work tried and still tries to contribute in national

development and thus improve the social functioning of people in their social roles and relationship, the functioning of individuals in their social environment.

(i) **Social Casework:**

This is primarily concerned with helping individuals develop their personalities for effective social functioning. Social casework deals with the individual and his adjustment problems based on the principles that people's problems could be diagnosed and treated scientifically with carefully and consciously directed study. Social worker through casework establishes a trusting relationship with a clients who is in need of help and then use his relationship to help the individual function better. When social work is primarily concerned with the fullest possible degree of personality development, we call it social case work.

(ii) Social Group Work:

Social group work is group oriented. It helps people function effectively in groups and derive maximum satisfaction from group participation. Social group work aims at helping individuals in their relations to groups and it embraces both therapeutic, educational and recreational activities. Through groups, individuals are helped to relate to each other and experience opportunities from growth in accordance with their needs and capacities. Because of the identification process or the "we" feeling that a group engenders, the group is often able to fill needs that are more difficult to meet in case work relationship. When social work is focused on the individual in a group setting and attempts to enable him to function more effectively in groups and to derive greater satisfaction from his participation, we term it social group work. A functional assumption is that all human beings have basic psychological needs which can be satisfied only in a social situation.

(iii) Community Development:

This aims at improving the communities in which people live. It addresses the issue of the welfare problems of the entire community. The social worker in Community Development helps to stimulate and co-ordinate community services to meet local needs. Local communities have the resources to meet many of their

problems but are frequently indifferent towards these social needs or unaware of methods which have been helped in other localities. The worker has the difficult task of stimulating effective self help at the community level as well as with smaller group. The social worker may help a community to specify the nature of ther problem, and formulate effective reliable goals. They act as community organisers, enablers, brokers, activists, fact finders and record keepers etc. Where social work activities are directed toward improving the communities in which people live, and the services provided for them, it is called community development. The main goal of Community Development has been to help people organise in such a way that they could help themselves.

(iv) Social Administration:

This is concerned with translating the policies of social agencies into practice in the most effective way, eg, adoption law. In fact, social administration is a process of transferring social policy into social services. In other words, social administration takes community decision, community resources and transfers them into actual programmes.

(v) Social Research:

This is a scientific study, a careful observation and inquiry aimed at discovering new facts. Social research is interested in the verification and quantification of relationships among phenomena which are known to be related. Thus, it involves the process of collecting, organising and analysing data as well as of drawing valid conclusions and making reasonable decisions based on such analysis. Social research ends at scientific studying of social needs for the purpose of making recommendations for appropriate social act.

(vi) Social Planning:

This involves the design of governmental policies and programmes to deal with social problems and other social consequences of economic development.

In conclusion, all the methods have a common core which according to Mere (1987) is found in a disciplined use of the self in working with people, a common working philosophy, a

continuous emphasis on working with clients, a problem centred approach, the use of social diagnosis based on analysis of the articulation of a plan toward solution or action, evaluation, and involvement in varying degrees of each area of specialisation with interpersonal group and intergroup process.

Intervention in Social Work: A Case example

According to Mere (1987), "social work intervention should begin with a process of assessment.

(i) Assessment:

This refers to the worker's efforts to understand the situation before him. He analyzes and conceptualises what he observes. Assessment involves both the worker and the client, group or community in defining and specifying the true situation (problem) confronting them. The social worker in doing assessment, identifies and states the problem. The impact of all the systems connected to the situation is also noted.

(ii) Planning:

This refers to the identification of the nature of change sought by the social worker and the client(s), provision of resources, better resources utilisation, etc.

(iii) Implementation or Action:

It specifies the activities and procedure in which social worker(s) would engage to obtain the needed goal.

(iv) Evaluation:

This involves determining whether the strategies used are appropriate to the goal sought and whether the outcome goals (results) achieved are indeed in keeping with the goals that have been attempted by the social worker(s) and client(s).

Social work intervention aims at assisting individuals, groups and communities in solving problems in their social functioning and also eradicating social problems in the society. Social workers in their intervention make use of the various social work methods.

Social work intervention to meet the demand of a changing society calls for social workers to exercise two roles: that of individuals, groups, and communities to cope with the problems resulting from change, for example, urbanization, delinquency,

family dislocation and that of initiator or facilitator of change through changes in organisation, institutions, groups, resources allocation, and social relations. Thus social work plays major roles in national development.

Let us examine one typical social problem among school children such as lateness to school and see how a social worker is likely to handle the problem with a school child.

In a case like this, a social worker through professional intervention in working with the child will first in his assessment have an interview with the child, arrange formal meetings with the child and even with his parents or guardians and teachers in order to find out what other factors in the child's background that are responsible for his constant lateness to school.

Based on the social worker's findings, it may be discovered that this child is living as a house help with a family and so as a servant, he has so much to do every morning before going to the school. The child has a long distance to walk from home to the school after performing his morning work at home. Thus he is always late.

The social worker on his planning with the child, would identify lateness as a problem and the change they would now sought foris helping the child to go to school early and avoid lateness. Thus, better resources utilisation.

In implementation or action, the social worker would seek an audience with the guardians or parents of the child and together, they can plan and discuss how to stop this lateness to school without the child abandoning his chores at home. It is through this procedure that the social worker could obtain the deserved goal.

Without this, no amount of whipping can stop this child's lateness to school unless he has to disobey his master and mistress which will further land him into another trouble worse than before, which will create psychological and emotional problems to the child.

The social worker having worked with the child and his parents or guardiance on the lateness will then evaluate whether the strategies used achieved the goal of going to school early or not.

There is no doubt that the social worker will achieve the goal with accurate assessment and well defined purpose backed with appropriate action.

Scope of Social Work

The scope of social work is multifaceted. Even though social work is a new profession in Nigeria and its impact less felt, it is crystally clear that society cannot do without social work. As a result of increasing societal inadequacies, social problems and problems in the social functioning of the people, there arose the need for social workers in various setting such as welfare office, medical settings, community setting, school settings and rehabilitation and developmental service centres among others. Social work contributes enormously in national development through these activities carried out by social workers in these areas and settings.

(i) School Social Work:

Social work in a school setting, according to Mere (1985) is an application of social work principles and methods to the major purpose of the school. The goals centre upon helping students attain a sense of competence, a readiness for continued learning and an ability to adapt to change. The focus of school social work is on cognitive areas-learning, thinking and problem solving as well as the traditional areas of concern, that is, relationships, emotion, motivation and personality.

Why do we concern ourselves with doing social work in the school? This is because of the belief that if children are unhappy, if they are deprived or disturbed, they cannot take advantage of school programmes, no matter how well the school curriculum is planned. Also, because we know that any child who has problem in school is usually a sign that shows that there is trouble in the child's life. So that school social work is a specialised service offered to children who are unable to use their learning capacity to the fullest.

School social worker assists the classroom teachers to see that the children will remain in the class and have the most productive educational experiences as it is possible. He does this by finding

out how the emotional disturbance of the child interfers with the child experience. Some children come to school with family problem. So what is the problem that prevents him or her from his study is diagnosed and treated by the intervention of the social worker for optimum performance of the student. School worker also shows how poor learning is related to poor emotional adjustment. In other words, a child may be delinquent because he is too bright or dull with what is offered. He can also help the school to see that additional lesson can make school work less frustrating. He can help to interpret how the child's home condition affects school adjustment. School social worker makes the teacher to teach well because of his presence in the school.

Thus, school social work is related to a particular school system, the characteristics of the pupils, and the social condition they face. Within this framework, school social workers endeavour to aid the school to give attention to pupil's individual needs and to offer each pupil an opportunity for success and achievement. In addition, school social workers must be concerned with the relationship of the school to other social institutions in the community.

The social worker in the school is there to look after the social needs and problems of the students and the staff. The social worker facilitates the use of educational programmes and services by the students through the use of social work methods such as social case work and group work in treating students and staff cases. He consults with the school administrators and jointly they identify major areas of needs and problems of the school for intervention and treatment.

The social worker in the school setting is neither classroom teacher nor guidance and counsellor. He helps both the students and staff by working with them in the problems emanating from their interaction. Such problems affect their social functioning. The social worker endeavours to assist the school to give attention to students' needs and to offer each student or pupil an opportunity for success and achievement.

School social worker, in working with the school, have to consider many problems of the students like maladjusted children.

He works with others in the student's life such as the parents, guardians and other members of the community the child comes in contact with in his or her daily life. Many school children come from broken homes or home where parents do not care for them adequately. Every child regardless of the background should be provided for in the school system. There are children who come to school late on regular basis for reasons beyond their control or there is communication gap between the school and the home about the children. There are children who sleep while lessons are going on in the school. School social worker is needed to work with these children and help them in the problems. Assuming in a case of a school child that is always sleeping in the class, it is the work of the social worker to interview and counsel the student to know where his or her problem emanates from, whether he is living with his parents or with relations, the type of activities he deals with at home and the parents or guardians' occupation, etc. The social worker then carries out intervention after the diagnosis, like going to see the parents of the student. He also helps in mapping out a time table for the student so that he can meet up with both his academic work and house choros.

In summary, school social worker through the various training he has acquired has the ability to understand the peculiarities of each child that he or she comes in contact with. He understands that the situation at home goes a long way in determining the level of participation and performance of the school children. A child who goes to bed at 11.00 p.m. due to numerious domestic duties he or she perform and get as early as 4.30 a.m. to go about the streets, selling pap would be late to school and most probably sleep during lessons. This definitely affects his level of understanding and overall class performance. The teacher may not be patient enough to understand all these factors concerning the child. It is only the presence of social worker that can save the situation and go on to unravel such student's predicament and bring them to mending through social work intervention and treatment.

Education in Nigeria seems not to be properly planned to cater for all the children's needs in the society, who for no fault of theirs

have special needs. There are children with emotional, behavioural and maladjusted problems. When we talk of emotionally disturbed children, it include childrens whose behaviours affect their ability to learn; delinquents who antagonise constituted school authority and members of the community where they live. This can only be eliminated by school social workers. These professionals are well equipped to deal with children that have problems hence they are trained to understand the child from early infancy to adulthood and beyond.

The school social worker also helps in bridging the gap found in social institutions. This he does by helping the individual establish relationship with their social environment, a relationship that will enable them to grow and live in harmony. Such relationship includes that between the child and the teacher, between the child and the parents and between parents and teacher/school. This is because the slightest communication gap may lead to friction which creates an impediment to growth. With the presence of a social worker in the school, this problem is adequately put in check.

The problem of truancy among teachers is another area where the social worker plays an important role in school setting. A good number of teachers today are known to have abandoned their jobs for some other interests. The social workers in the school acting as advocates for the students have helped in saving the school children from adverse effects of truancy among the teachers.

The issue of poor academic performance among the school children necessitated by the falling standard of education is another area the social workers offer assistance. This view held in many quarters is an area many people have expressed great concern. However, it is known that poor academic performance is more as a direct result of adjustment problem manifested in poor study habits, truancy and indiscipline. It is also acknowledged that these problems are the results of myraids of influence from the home, neighbourhood and the school environment. The social worker in school setting acts as an aid that raises the children's capacity towards coping in their studies by working jointly with both the students, their parents and their teachers in providing solutions to

those problems that impede learning.

(ii) Social Welfare Agency:

What do social workers do with the family? Why are social workers concerned with family? This is because family is the foundation of any society. Nature or man has not yet found a substitute for family as an institution of social work.

According to Friedlander (1961), social welfare is "an organised system of social services and institutions designed to aid individuals and groups to attain satisfying standard of life, health and personal social relation that permit them to develop their capacity and promote their well being in harmony with the needs of their families and communities. Social welfare refers to services and action programmes designed to enable individuals, families, groups and communities to cope with the social problems of the changing conditions of life. The concern of social welfare is with the interaction between people and their social environment.

Social welfare then is the place where skilled intervention are offered to the people with problems (clients) in order to activate their creative potentials to enable them accomplish their legitimate objectives and tasks. People need to be assisted in carrying out their social functioning when the going becomes rough and they cannot forge ahead without outside assistance that usually comes from the social workers.

Social work in the family welfare is a kind of treatment that seeks to modify or to bring about change. Family social welfare is that which deals with family relationship. The social workers in the social welfare agency have the goal of assisting the family members in crisis when their coping capacity becomes limited. The members of the family are in crisis and cannot cope with high anxiety. The welfare social workers also help to modify male/female adoptive roles in the family. They help to establish appropriate role in the family where it does not exist. This helps the family members to learn how to communicate. This also helps the family members to act more in unity. Members of the family may not understand each other's view and so the social worker working with them helps them to communicate because when

communication exist, it clears misunderstanding.

Furthermore, social workers in the welfare agency work with the following kinds of disturbances:

(a) Family with poor performance.
(b) Family with unhappy coalition.
(c) Family with emotional and physical separation.
(d) Problem with interdependent of family. Here for instance, one member takes over autonomy of all others.
(e) They may have to do with role reversal in the family where father plays mother's role and mother plays father's role.
(f) Rigidity in parental role discharge. Here for example, parents can became rigid at their control over the family and it creates problems to their children.
(g) Inability to tolerate the need for individual differences in the family.

In treating marital conflict between husband and wife in the family, emphasis here is on the reconciliation and resolution of marital conflict. It is the duty of the social worker(s) to explore ways and means of strengthening healthy family relationships so that the husband and wife including their children can enjoy positive family experiences. Some of the matrimonial problems relate to the problem of family planning and the social worker has to work beyond presenting problem in order to discover the real problem of the couple. For instance, a husband may be maltreating his wife indirectly because of the fact that she gets only female children for him. This poor and innocent woman will come to report that her husband is always beating her to the welfare agency. She will insist that she will not continue the marriage.

Thus, the role of the social worker in the marital conflict according to Ekpe (1987) will include:

(a) to determine through interview (using psychosocial theory) the nature of the marital problem.
(b) to determine what caused the problem.
(c) to determine what each spouse has done to contribute to the problem.
(d) to determine how the presence of children or the absence of

children has contributed to the problem.

(e) to determine what each spouse has done to try and solve the problem.

(f) to determine the potentials of marital partners in each spouse.

(g) to determine whether there are enough strength in the marriage to indicate that the family should be helped to learn new ways of living together.

(h) to determine whether the quality of marital relationship is so bad that they should be encouraged in their own interest to live apart and in so doing to ensure that the interest of the children are emphasised.

(i) to get at the motions, feelings of partners and difficulties of the couple in fulfilling their roles.

(j) to have a good knowledge of common resources, a good knowledge of human behaviour and functioning at all times.

Other functions of the welfare social workers are as follows:

Child Welfare Services

As the name implies, this refers to all other services that are rendered for the interest of the child such as:

(i) Fostering is the giving out of a child to a fit person for care of temporary basis while the child still retains his or her full identity and comes back to his parents at the end.

(ii) Adoption is the possession of a child by an adoptive parents on permanent basis following an adoption order in line with the adoption law of 1965. Adoption is a rigorous exercise and when completed, the child looses his or her identity and the order cannot be revoked. Abandoned babies are usually available for adoption through the social welfare agencies.

Community Service. The focus there is the registration of social clubs, age grades, and voluntary associations to form an area welfare council. The council serves as an out post through which information from the agency are related to the various communities.

Rehabilitation of the Disabled and the Sick. Here the emphasis is on encouraging the public and private social agencies to organise training for the disabled and handicapped persons on various trades under the supervision and guidance of the social welfare agency. Again the very sick but destitute persons are referred to the government hospitals in the local government area for free medical treatment and attention (referral services) by the social worker.

Juvenile Services (Probation). Social worker in the social welfare agency carry out probabtion services. Probation services refer to the case work on juvenile offenders which include investigations and reports which are submitted to juvenile courts for necessary action.

Adult Welfare Services. Here attempts are made to help the needy and destitutes in the local government area of welfare agency in order to prevent them from constituting social obstacles. Reliefs in the form of cash or kind are given to the lunatics, blinds, beggars and ex-convicts in the society. Supervision of ancillary projects such as the motherless babies home under the jurisdiction of social welfare agency is one of the functions carried out by the social worker.

(iii) Social Work in Hospital Setting

Hospital social work according to Ferguson (1969), "is the application of the elements of social work method to problems arising from health situation of an individual. It has the aim of increasing the individual capacities and abilities to deal with his situation with its major goal of enabling the individual derive maximum satisfaction from his life". The origin of hospital social work could be traced to the actions of the Lady Almoner in England.

In deed, hospital social work represents an adaptation of generic principles and techniques to treatment and prevention of illness and the maintenance of health. Since problems of physical well being are connected with man's personality and social life, social work involved itself in such areas which impair man's adequate functioning. It concerns itself with helping to create a climate that makes for adjustment and the possibility of minimising situations

with which an individual or groups cannot cope. Social work in the hospital can take the form of what is termed in social work, "clearing the grounds for clients". This means finding out and making sure that those factors which contributed to the patient's illness are removed. It can be a disordered home, unemployment or any other factor which kept the individual uncomfortable in the family and in carrying out social functioning. The social worker in the hospital especially deals with practical, emotional, social and psychological problems of the patients. Health and social problems can so much intertwin and interweave. No single therapy can claim complete amelioration of human illness. Emphasis is made on social work in collaboration with medical care of individuals in view of all that health involves. The medical social worker can be thought of as a link to the range of social system affecting health and illness. Medical social workers have valuable contributions to make to the study and diagnostic evaluation of the patient's problem. The social worker doing these, helps to determine to what extent factors in patient's life present discomfort, the kind of family and employment situation to which he is expected to return which may also influence the cause of treatment and the prognosis. The social worker acts on behalf of the patients. The social worker studies and tries to understand how patients get along with the staff and other patients. These observations make it easier for the social worker and the medical therapists to deal with such patients. Moreso, it helps them to foresee possible obstacles to the patient's progress after discharge. Hospital social worker provides direct case work with patients and their families and also group work with patients.

The medical social worker has a part to play in discovering and supporting the social and emotional strengths which the patient has in his efforts to recover from his illness and physical handicaps. The medical social worker's role also include assisting patients and the relatives of patients to understand medical conditions, to adjust to permanent or long term disabilities and to utilize to the fullest their potential for rehabilitation.

The emotional consequences in the patient may take the form of

aggression. The hospital social worker seeing these behaviours in relation to the patient's pattern of living can help the patient and the medical therapists see such behaviour as a reaction to a temporary situation (Herllich and Graham: 1975). Pertaining his function as a co-ordinator, the social worker secures needed material from agencies, transmit medical information and recommendation to agencies. Social workers in the hospital setting listen to troubled patients who need sympathetic ears and attention. They can also clarify confused relations who face the role indecision in patient's problem, such as taking their patients to either prayer house or psychiatric homes. Social workers in the hospital can advocate for jobs for discharged patients who have lost their job due to prolonged illness in the hospital and cannot find new ones by themselves. Hospital social workers equally carry out referral services when necessary, making use of appropriate agencies.

Social workers in the hospital as a member of the medical team work to enhance the understanding of patient's problems. In their follow up services, social workers make home visits for clients. Discharged patient is kept at home under guidance and supervision. It also includes linking up patients in the hospital with their family. Such follow up services enhance collection of hidden data with regard to patient's problems in the hospital. Thus the hospital social work according to Encyclopedia of social work (1987) has, "the primary purpose of helping patients to make a smooth transition from the hospital to be community. One of the goals of the hospital social work is to ensure that gains made in the acute care setting are maintained in the patient's home and community environment".

Hospital social work generally includes arranging for the concrete services the patient will need after discharge from the hospital. Work with families is often a major part of the social work intervention in the hospital setting. Social work services in the hospital are essential for both patients and staff in general.

(iv) Social Work in Community Setting

Social workers are involved in the physical improvement of rural

communities and provision of pre-requisites for the development of the rural communities. Many youths are drifting away from the villages to the townships. Integrated community development programmes that enhance positive efforts toward making rural economy self reliant are encouraged by the social workers working with the community people. Community development social workers aim at making rural life more meaningful to the people of the community through self help projects.

Some income generating activities that aim at improving the economic situation of the rural families are also encouraged by the community development social workers. Thus social workers have tremendous roles to play in improving the lives of both rural and urban people in Nigerian communities.

Community development is a process of social education designed to produce social change which will lead to better living conditions and community development. Social workers are agents of change. Social workers working with the communities must have faith in the ability of the community people to learn to help themselves and improve their lot.

Rehabilitation and Development Services

It is the work of the social workers to assist the disabled persons in order to come to terms with their disability and learn to be useful to themselves and the society. Thus, social work extends to all spheres of life including the physically and mentally handicapped and the aged. Social workers work with both the handicapped and the aged in their various individuals and social problems.

The handicapped people at Emene Rehabilitation Centre in Enugu and the blind people at the Nigeria Farm Craft Centre for the Blind at Ikeja in Lagos State are taught various vocational skills to aid their rehabilitation process and be gainfully employed on completion of their training programmes. The training given to them aims at making them self-employ.

Programmes for the aged are designed to reduce the boredom experienced by these old people. The social workers working with the aged cater for them in their familiar environments and help to

make sure that the aged people are seen as asset and not as liability to the nation. The social workers working with the aged encourage them not to feel that they are useless and burden to the nation. The social workers help them to achieve self actualisation and so make their lives more meaningful. The wealth of experience of the aged are tapped by the nation through the activities of the social workers working with them and these are passed from generation to generation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, social workers with their philosophy, commitment, and experience contribute much to national development. It is evident that social workers need more knowledge, greater skill and flexibility in contributing in national development. A concern for all people will indeed require more skills and knowledge than most social workers have yet been able to master. Social workers certainly have a need to understand more about drug abuse, alochlism, family problems and other social problems but they also need to know more about legislative process, and the administrative process, both formal and informal.

The acquisition of such knowledge will take a long time, however, if social workers want to become truly helpful in national development. Thus suitable education is of utmost importance.

Social work is a relatively new profession in Nigeria and very little is known of it by people outside the profession. It is therefore, understandable that the Federal government has not seriously thought of it in its desperate effort to ensure concrete national development. Social work is a dynamic instrument for national development and rapid social change in the country.

Finally, social work as an area of specialization in Sociology/Anthropology and as a growing new profession should be supported by both the government and the general public .

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