

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND SOCIAL ACTION

Introduction:

Community organisation as method of social work practice is seen as means to facilitate communities towards self-directed change. It takes, as its basis the inequalities in society manifested through process of marginalisation, discrimination or disempowerment of groups, which have resulted in the loss control over resources, be they tangible or intangible. The strategies of CO practice being addressed as part of the course covers a range spanning different ideologies, from those people initiated and those that are initiated by the elite. CO is seen as a means as well as an end, where collective process sustains the community's capacity to bring about change.

Objectives:

1. To understand the different aspects of a community, its functions and problems
2. To understand the critical elements of community organisation process
3. To enhance critical understanding of models and strategies for CO
4. To develop attitudes conducive to participatory activities for a civil society

To gain knowledge on the various techniques and skills of community Organisation & social action and to develop the basic skills to apply those in the community.

Unit – I

Community: Meaning, Types and characteristics: community power structure minority groups.

Community Dynamics: Integrative and disintegrative processes in the community.

Leadership: Definitions, types and qualities; leadership in different types of communities, Theories of leadership.

Unit – II

Community Organization : Concept, definition, objectives, philosophy, approaches and principles; organizations as a method of social work; community organization as method of Social work; community welfare councils and community chests.

Unit – III

Methods of community organization: Planning, education, communication, community participation, collective decision making, involvement of groups and organizations, resource mobilization, community action, legislative and non-legislative promotion, co-ordination; skills in community organization, community organization as an approach to community development.

Unit – IV

Phases of community organization: Study, assessment, discussion, organization, action, evaluation, modification, continuation; community study; community organization in emergencies like fire, famine, flood, drought, earthquake and war; community organization at local, state and national level; community organization in rural urban slum and tribal areas.

Unit – V

Social Action: Definition, objectives, principles, methods and strategies; social action as a method of Social Work; Social action and Social reform; Radical Social Work Saul Alinsky's and Paulo Freire's methods; Process of Social Action; Scope of social action in India; role of social workers in community organization and social action and community empowerment.

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