

CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK

At A Glance...

- The Social Work profession promotes social change, problem-solving in human relationships, and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance their independence and happiness. If you are willing to be a partner, negotiator, supporter, communicator, re-framer, confronter and reflector and if you feel a great deal of compassion towards social issues, then this can be an excellent career option for you.

More about it...

- Social work is not just about doing good deeds and helping the under-privileged. Over a period of time, it has evolved into a profession. Correctly it is not a 'conventional' career. But with issues of disability, drug misuse, poverty, mental ill health, problems associated with aging etc. rising constantly, social work has become a vital need of our society today. If you are willing to take up a profession for emotional fulfillment and if your purpose of working is not just financial, this would be the ideal career for you.

The Work

- Social work is all about determining people's social, economic and emotional problems. Social workers work towards the solutions of these problems through counseling, arranging conferences, increasing resources, spreading public awareness and starting social programs and health services. Assessing and treating, mental health and emotional problems is also the job of a social worker. Social work offers diverse opportunities because every individual and society deal with different kinds of problems.

- **Clinical Social Work:** Social workers who venture into this field can work in psychological and mental health care settings or large companies. Their job involves psychotherapy and counseling.
- **School Social Work:** This job involves providing emotional help and problem-solving to prevent family and school breakdown. Counseling the children, home visits, family assessments, making referrals to locality teams etc. is all a part of this job. Discussing and educating on issues like drug abuse, alcohol abuse, sex-related problems and diseases is also the job of a school social worker.
- **Psychiatric Social Work:** Psychiatric social workers work with disturbed children and teenagers with behavioral problems. They assess and diagnose their problems and help in facilitating a treatment process.
- **Criminology and Correctional Social Work:** Social Work in remand homes and prisons to prevent crimes and anti-social behavior is also carried out by social workers. Crime prevention programs are also started by social workers.

- **Medical Social Work:** Social workers who venture into this area, help patients and their families in coping with stress and other personal and economic problems. Any hindrances that restrain recovery are dealt with by Medical Social Workers. Services for home care after discharge from the hospital, economic help for poor patients and long term care facilities are all provided by them. Also, they help health professionals in treating the patients by providing them with information concerning the social, emotional and economic status of the patient.
- **Community Organisation:** Social workers work towards solutions to problems of specific communities. They deal with problems like lack of housing, unemployment , local services etc. They help in distribution of resources and implementing social policies.
- **Research:** Social workers carry out social research to determine solutions to problems like poverty and homelessness. They also research on the causes of social problems and the effectiveness of agencies.
- **Industrial Social Work:** Social workers help ensuring labour welfare in industries and commercial units.
- Social workers also help people with mental health problems, marriage issues, substance abuse and dealing with diseases like HIV/Aids.

What it takes?

- Interest in the psychological and emotional side of people's behavior, sensitivity, patience and persistence are a few of the characteristics that you must possess to be in this field. You need to have idealism to make a difference to the lives of individuals, the courage to make a positive decision to do a job that contributes to the society, the need to feel proud of your contribution and stimulating role and most importantly personal fulfillment. Also you need to treat everyone as equals and you can not hold a bias or prejudice against any section of the society.

Where to study?

- You can undertake a two year course [MSW-MA] at the post-graduate level after completing your graduation in any subject.
- Graduates with a degree in sociology or a social science subject get higher preference.
- Admission is based on an entrance test which tests your mental ability and general awareness.
- The interview conducted in the next stage is to test your speaking skills and to understand your reasons for taking up this profession.

Courses in Social Work

- » Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)
- » Certificate Course in Social Work (CSW)
- » Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Social Work
- » Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Social Work
- » Master of Social Work (MSW)

Best institutes in india for this course are;

- Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai;
- Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai;
- Faculty of Social Work,
- M.S.University, Baroda;
- Delhi University
- Indore school of Social work

The well-known institutes that you can apply to are listed below:-

- Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi
B.A, M.A.
- University of Delhi, Delhi
M.A.
- Jamia Millia Islamia, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi
M.A.
- Gujarat Vidyapeth, Ahmedabad
M.A. M.S.W.
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Deomar, Bombay
M.A.
- Andhra University, Waltair
B.A./M.A.
- Sri Venkateshwara University, Tirupati
B.A.
- Mangalore University, Univ Campus, Mangalagangothri
B.A.
- University of Madras, Chennai
B.A. M.A. M.S.W.
- Punjab University : Centre for Emerging Areas in Social Sciences, Chandigarh
(Chandigarh)
Room No. 201, 1st Floor, Aruna Ranjit Chandra Hall , Chandigarh

Top Organizations

- United Nations agencies like UNESCO and UNICEF, UNDP.
- NGOs like Cini Asha and Balwadi and
- Governmental agencies like Labour Bureau and Department of Rural Development.

Shortage of Social Workers in UK

- There is a huge shortage of social workers in the UK. We are having social workers coming in from all over the world to work in the UK.
- You need to find out whether your qualifications in social work from India are recognized in the UK.

Opportunities Abroad :

- Vast opportunities are available for social workers abroad. Globalization has widened the scope of employment for students opting for social work as their career.
- They may choose to join international NGOs like
 1. Amnesty International,
 2. Oxfam and
 3. Green Peace etc.

In many countries like UK, Northern Island, Scotland one should register with their governing body (GSCC in UK) to take up the career of a social worker.

Institutes in Canada

- [Dalhousie University](#), (Nova Scotia)
Associate Registrar/Admissions, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS B3H-4H6, Canada
- [Lakehead University](#), (Ontario)
Assistant Registrar, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1, Canada
- [Laurentian University](#), (Ontario)
Assistant Registrar, Laurentian University, Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6, Canada
- [Mcgill University](#), (Quebec)
Director of Admissions Office, Mcgill University, 845 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, PQ H3A 2T5, Canada
- [Universite De Montreal](#), (Quebec)
Director of Admissions, Universite De Montreal, Case Postale 6205, Succursale Centre-Ville, Montreal, PQ H3C 3T5, Canada

Institutes in USA

Boston University:: Associate Director of Admissions, Boston Director of Admissions, Boston University, 121 Bay State Road, Boston, MA02215

Concordia College:: Dean of Enrollment Management, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY 10708-1998

Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus:: Assistant Dean for Admissions and Records, Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus, Laie, Oahu, HI 96762-1294

CabriniCollege:: Executive Director of Admisssions and Financial Aid, Cabrini College, Radnor, PA 19087 - 3698

California State University, Frenso:: Associate Vice president of Enrollment services, [California State University](#), Fresno, 5241 North Maple Avenue, Fresno, CA-93740