

Running Head: Social Welfare Issues in Australia and the Nature of the Social Work

University Name:

Social work involves all the activities aimed at promoting social fairness and individual rights. It involves planning and service provision for families, communities and individuals who are socially disadvantaged i.e. those people with social problems. Individuals steering social work (social workers) provide counseling and offer advice to the disadvantaged. They develop policies and programs relating social issues and are always lobbying for social change (Weeks and Quinn, 2000)

Major Welfare Issues in Australia

Education and Unemployment.

In Australia there is big number of people who have not acquired education qualification beyond year 12. This has been a major problem because these people need to secure further training to be able to fit into the job market. This problem has been accelerated by the welfare work policy which emphasizes on getting people into the jobs at the expense of giving them an opportunity to upgrade their skills. As a result these has contributed to the increase of the unemployed people, because they don't possess the skills that are needed in the new job market. (Weeks and Quinn, 2000)

Due to this problem the government has set some money to help this group of people upgrade their skills to be in a position to secure a good job in the future. (Weeks and Quinn, 2000) This has been done by offering part time jobs such that they can earn and have an opportunity to acquire skills as they have time to enroll in organization that offer vocational training such that they will easily fit into the job in future. The big challenge is that these people are increasing year after the other thus straining the social workers budget at the same time failing to co-operate.

There is also the need to give special treatment to the disabled group and those with families who are willing to upgrade their qualification. For example those with families will have a chance to learn and work to earn income to run their homes. (Weeks and Quinn, 2000)

Child Welfare

Besides addressing the problem of education and unemployment. There is also a major and urgent need to look into the welfare of children's in Australia because they will be the backbone of Australia in future. Due to the high rates of deaths as a result of HIV/AIDS related issues in Australia large number of children are left homeless and orphaned with no one to look after them. So there is a need to plan on how these children's which are left behind by the deceased are able to be adopted such that they can have a chance to have a home. (O'Connor, Wilson and Setterlund, 2003)

This will help them because they will be in a position to have a foster mother who will ensure that they get their basic needs are in a position to pursue their education.

The fact that these children are not left behind will make them have a place to get parental love and an opportunity to receive the right guidance to be in a position to fit well in the society. (O'Connor, Wilson and Setterlund, 2003)

Ageing

Taking care of the old remains one of the major issues in social work in the entire globe. Australia is not an exception implying that there are also efforts channeled towards catering for the old. The old are taken to homes for the old where they are given special attention such as washing their clothes, feeding them among others. This also gives them a chance to interact with their peers such that they are able to share their problems and experiences in life. In this way they limit their chances of stress related illness thereby increasing their days. These people are very important in Australia because they are the one who have contributed to what Australia is and their efforts need to be appreciated. Those of these people are also treasured because they also harbor a lot of wisdom that can be used to improve the living standards of Australians. (O'Connor, Wilson and Setterlund, 2003)

Poverty

Australia has a very big land that is rich in resources which is under utilized. This problem occurs due to the level of education in the country. Most of Australians are semi-educated. This limits their potential to utilize the rich resources to improve their living standard. This makes Australia to import labor in various fields to go and work in their country. This contributes to stagnant development in the country since after working in Australia the expatriates are making investments in their mother countries posing a great threat to the social work initiative in Australia. So the Aust

ralian should look for a lasting solution to cater for this problem and the only way out of this is by empowering their citizen with skills to be self reliant with the skilled labor. The Government has not been successful in employing measures in guiding its citizen on the relevant training to pursue such that after completing their courses they can be able to secure jobs. This will also help improve the living standards of Australians since they will be able to better exploit their resources using the skills acquired. (O'Connor, Wilson and Setterlund, 2003)

Caring For the Disabled.

'Disability is not inability' therefore special care should be given to those people who are physically challenged. These people range from the blind, dumb and physically impaired. Enough schools should be built for the disabled in addition schools should be well funded to buy the needed facilities. Special teachers who are specially trained to cater for this group should only be the ones to teach these people, as their needs are different from the other students. After getting their qualification, these groups should be assisted in securing jobs. Doing these, will help in promoting the lives of Australian people. (O'Connor, Wilson and Setterlund, 2003)

Health and Training Social Workers.

According to Weeks and Quinn (2000) the government should ensure that the health facilities in Australia are enough to cater for the high growing population of Australia. There should also be sufficient work force to render the various health services to these people. So there should be good and constant training of people to work in various fields in the hospitals e.g. doctor, nurses, and dentists.

Also in the other social fields proper and constant training of work force should be ensured such that Australian people get the needed services that are of good standard.

Social Welfare Challenges

Lack of enough qualified workers in some of those organizations, as they cannot afford to attract and keep workers in their organization for long. This is because most of these workers cannot cope with the stress associated with this profession. As work for the social workers in hospital is to counsel victims suffering from home violence, rape and very sick patients. Due to this kind of work most people get dissatisfied with their jobs quickly and quit it to look for a job they can enjoy doing.

These organizations that employ the social workers do not offer an opportunity to their employees to develop their careers. This limits the number of people who would like to work in these organizations, as people like to work in places where they can get the right experience so that they can develop their careers to be more marketable in the job market in future. Which is not the case here as people leave these jobs as quickly as they get them due to the stresses associated with them, such that they don't have an opportunity to get enough experience to increase their demand in the job market.

References

Internet Sources <http://www.socialworker.com>
<http://www.apo.org.au>

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Weeks, W. and Quinn, M. (2000): Issues facing Australian families: Human services respond, Pearson Education, Australia