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## **Social Welfare History**

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### **Social Welfare History**

Despite having no specific definition, social welfare entails a broad range of services as well as activities carried out by non-profit firms, volunteers and government corporations. They willingly offer help to individuals in need who cannot take care of themselves. It is well known that charitable work mostly originated from religious beliefs. The inspiration of reformers to strong ethical convictions, unshakable sense of justice and deep compassion are made possible through these beliefs. Besides, the reformers are responsible for numerous activities and services that are helpful to those who require assistance. Some of the impacts are temperance, the establishment of settlement houses and abolition (Hansan, 2017).

The first significant step of coming up with social welfare projects was enacting the Elizabeth Poor Law of 1601 by England's parliament (Hansan, 2017). The enactment allowed the government to establish a system of obligated financing beyond the church and the poor to leave in local parishes. American colonies also carried the English Poor Laws. However, due to large-scale immigration, widespread urbanization, rapid industrialization and revolutionary war where there were American colonies, there was an increase in poverty incidents. Therefore, there was a rise in the cost of taxes needed for low relief. Hence, new laws were introduced to cut the cost of poor relief.

Prevention of poverty and social ills was the ultimate goal. This was after the number of immigrants increased. The Great Depression, introduction of Social Security Act, domestic programs and New Deal all played an essential role in determining the final step in modern social welfare evolution. The history of social welfare sheds light on how assisting activities and services made the US fight different social ills of complicated beginnings (Hansan, 2017). Poverty and public assistance may have played a colossal role; however, they do not paint the

whole picture. Social welfare history reviews people's lives, being educated, voting, working and living in the US.

The author wants us to understand where social welfare began, therefore going ahead and describing the way it all started. In the process, eliminates the notion that it is all always out of goodwill. Different governments put in place laws and policies, despite this starting in the early years, shows how crucial their targets were. Therefore, the writer explains the different organizations created to battle the social ills that the writer thinks were becoming a problem for different nations.

The fact that Acts such as the Social Security Act were introduced in the early year shows how social welfare was a much more critical way of managing the poor back then and it still is to date. I think social welfare is one of the essential parts of our society and without it, the gap between the rich and the less fortunate would be way more significant than it is currently. Therefore, having useful Acts that support the less fortunate has to be one of the most critical things a government can have if they want to grow as a country.

My interaction with this article has changed not only my personal life but also my daily interactions too. It is important to acknowledge where people are coming from and as per this article, you are never too sure who you are interacting with. Many individuals may be going through hard times and the only help they can get is through well-wishers, a non-profit organization, or government agencies. Thus, it is vital to handle people with care. Conclusively, not taking things for granted is the most potent learning lesson I have learned through reading this article.

### Reference

Hansan, J. E. (2017). *What Is Social Welfare History?* Social Welfare History Project.

<http://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/recollections/social-welfare-history/>

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