

How does the Study of Economics Help a Social Worker

The study of economics helps a social worker in the following ways:

1) Economic Development:

As defined by **Marshal**, “Economics is a science of material welfare.”

And as we know the objective of social worker is the total development of the community where total development means equal enhancement of both the social as well economic aspects of the community. So by studying economics this part can be easily understood.

2) Conflict Management:

One of the main problems of industries is the conflict between management and labours. Efficient production is the goal of any economic activity but this goal cannot be achieved without the full cooperation of the labour. So social worker having the knowledge of industrial economics, can help in the achievement of this goal by solving the problem of management and workers’ conflicts. Not only can this he/she can also help them in the formation of legal unions which in turn deals with the management in a civilized manner.

3) Study of Socio-Economic Factors:

From the study of economic theory, a social worker can understand various socio-economic causes which retard the economic growth of the community. Thus he/she can know how the programmes for social development can be started. The theory of economic growth and planning provides guidelines in this regard and a social worker can adopt different planning techniques to bring about rapid socio-economic development and raise the living standards of the people.

4) Knowledge of the Vocational Values:

The knowledge of vocational values of economics for a social worker is also very important. For example, as a labour officer, economics helps a social worker in understanding the industrial situations. It enables a social worker to fight the battle of labour against capital more intelligently and effectively. With the help of it he/she will know when to press his demands strongly and when to yield gracefully.

5) Improvement in Production and Distribution:

A social worker can help the people to learn the principles of business organization. So that they may become able to plan the business well and tackle the problems of production and marketing more successfully. In this way knowledge of economics renders direct assistance to social worker.

6) Proper Utilization of Economic Resources:

We have unlimited desires and needs but the resources needed to satisfy these needs are very limited. In this connection the study of economics is of great importance for the social worker as he/she has to educate the people that how they can meet their needs within these limited resources.

7) Economic Planning:

Having economic knowledge the social worker can make useful suggestions in the planning year. He/she can advice the government as how to plan keeping in view the economic situation and the problems of the local people. Moreover, he/she can foresee the impacts caused by the planning on the social situations of the local people.

8) Running the Small Industrial Units:

A fair knowledge of economics is required for a social worker to help the people in effectively running their small industrial units which they develop on self-help basis. Because social worker having appropriate knowledge of economics will be in a position to provide them all the needed economic information such as information about raw material, market conditions, commodities to be produced, techniques of production, methods of distribution and the population for whom to produce, etc.

9) To Avoid Overlapping:

Because of the economic understanding, social worker can help the people in developing different new projects and avoiding overlapping of the services e.g. if in a community two vocational training institutes have been established, it is advisable to close down the one and start another equally necessary project.

10) Stabilizing the After Effects of Rapid Economic Growth:

Rapid economic development i.e. industrialization creates many social problems such as pollution, family breakdown, crimes, etc. In other words, it disturbs the social set up. So to stabilize such situation, the study of economics helps the social worker a lot.

11) Fixing Up the Priorities:

Community choices between different goods and services are limited by the amount of resources available and by the technological knowledge of the society. Given the production possibilities, community must choose between necessities and luxuries, between public and private goods, or between consumption and investment. So social worker having good economic knowledge helps the community in fixing up their priorities.

12) Link between Local and National Levels:

There are two levels; local and national. The social worker having appropriate economic knowledge becomes a link between these two levels. As at one hand, he conveys socio-economic aspirations of the local people to the higher authorities at the national level while on the other hand, conveys the national policies formulated at national level to the local people.