

# Review of: "A Deeper Look at the Origin and Evolution of the Social Work Profession"

Les Spencer

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper gathers together a broad-ranging, rich, descriptive history of actions loosely under a 'social work' and 'alternatives to social work' umbrella. India's evolutionary role in evolving social work, little recognized in the West, is detailed. The author could leave it here. Then again, this paper provides an abundant field for further original research into social support forms that may be taken up by the author or others. What seems like the place to stop may very well be the time and place for the author to extend originality and begin writing this paper in earnest! The author notes the distinction between charity work and social work but does not explore the implications and consequences of this distinction, or future directions for evolving social work practices emerging from the author's research to date. Below are some research implications extending social work directly and indirectly emerging from this paper:

- o Profound differences between 'service delivery' and 'charity supported self-help/mutual help' - and the implications of these differences
- o Use of laws and regulations to further constraints limiting mutual help support to the poor to ensure supremacy of the service delivery model
- o Intentional constraints on mutual help by bureaucrats and service delivery professionals who mistakenly believe their work would be threatened by mutual help, and the implications of these constraints
- o Regulations and controls on charitable acts
- o Tax policy intrusions into charitable giving and implications of these intrusions
- o Incorporating Indian cultural and spiritual values in social work
- o Creating and using social infrastructure
- o Providing food and shelter
- o Home visits & domiciliary care
- o Volunteering
- o Aid support - public or private
- o Source and application of social support funds
- o Local, regional, global foci
- o Modes of support delivery
- o Forces preventing resolution of poverty and psycho-emotional need - addressing various determinants of poverty
- o Social
- o Political
- o Bureaucratic
- o Economic
- o Situated poverty
- o Helping the poor help themselves
- o Charity and social work
- o Implications for the emergence of innovative ways of evolving better worlds
- o Social work helping/harming/enclosing the psycommons (that is, the effective ways of addressing life's challenges held in common by locals)
- o Adapting what works from anywhere in the world