TRANSITION FROM CHARITY TO ORGANISED SOCIAL WORK IN FAMINE-AFFECTED AREAS

Dr Vrishti Kanojia, Assistant Professor
Department of History
Lakshmibai College, University of Delhi

Abstract

The delivery of famine relief expanded historically from personal distribution to established social work programmes in India as well as in worldwide institutions. Youngster-focused, reliable operations within famine relief agencies require essential changes to create better processes and decrease the humiliation of target populations during relief efforts. The modern social work ideology, together with growing inequality consciousness during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, led to an organisational understanding of famine that involves more than food scarcity and extends to social and economic devastation. The paper explores how different periods and decision points caused fundamental changes to occur. The investigation of colonial and post-colonial Indian famines relies on practical implementations, which led society to need changes in disaster management protocols. The study demonstrates that social systems operate efficiently when organisations maintain properly trained staff who support local population members through institutional frameworks. Social work organisations play an essential role in achieving both long-term national stability and famine relief because their activities extend beyond providing traditional relief services. Changes in disaster response needed the transition from charity systems to organised social work because of public and political reforms and the development of standardised relief and aid programmes. Full integration between health, human rights, and welfare approaches must be implemented to transform begging into independence.

Keywords: Famine Relief, Charity, Social Work, Humanitarian Aid, Structural Inequality, Disaster Response, Institutional Frameworks, Community Participation, Resilience, Empowerment.

Throughout history, famine has proved to be the most destructive disaster, which has caused severe losses of population and forced mass displacement along with extensive social and economic chaos across different communities worldwide. At the outset, people tried to help starving citizens through religious practices and societal compassion, but these methods proved insufficient during widespread consecutive disaster events. Soaring failures in hasty charity attempts made society shift toward developing systematic famine elimination programmes, which also integrated permanently practical approaches for recovery. Social reformers demanded social change and colonial powers, and the modernization of social services during the twentieth century led to these changes. Social work organisation enabled disease roots, such as poverty and inadequate governance and land inequality, and infrastructure issues, to create integrated natural disaster development objectives. This paper will outline the transformation of basic relief and philanthropic charity (goal-based) paradigms into research-based coordinated social work practices. The research proposal establishes an assessment system to track famine relief professionalisation and its applications to future disaster policy development.

Objectives of the paper

1. Trace the historical development of famine relief from traditional charitable practices to modern organized social work
2. Assessing the restrictions of charity-oriented responses in managing major famines together with their extended socio-economic end results stands as the second strategic objective of this investigation.
3. This objective studies the participation of government policies along with NGOs and international organisations that support the evolution of organised social work.

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF FAMINE RELIEF FROM TRADITIONAL CHARITABLE PRACTICES TO MODERN ORGANIZED SOCIAL WORK

The concept of humanitarian intervention developed naturally because charity-related informal organisations transitioned towards formal social work structures for famine relief purposes. New modifications during famine have affected both social organisation and government systems, as well as the knowledge of political and economic human wants. The analysis

outlines both historical timeframes together with scholarly research on fundamental conceptual shifts, which document the system's institutional growth.

Traditional Charity-Based Famine Relief (Pre-1800s)

Before industrialization, societies controlled their famine troubles through irregular methods that integrated religious and moral rules. Indian natives consider Daan as a central teaching of the three religions, which include Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism, when asked about what donated items these belief systems value. People who worship at temples and those in mosques, together with social leaders, provided cooked food and rice and wheat alongside other rations, along with emergency relief shelters for famine victims, according to Srivastava (2011). The localised famine assistance factor suffered from inefficiency and discoordination between departments while maintaining its ethical foundation towards assistance. The mixture of landownership systems and transport limitations, along with weather conditions, remained unclear to the people who suffered famine.

2. Colonial Government Interventions: The Emergence of Public Policy (1800s–Early 1900s)

The British administrators faced no restrictions when it came to famine relief decisions,even though India remained under British colonial rule at that time. The first disaster interventions called Famine Codes that the British created to respond to the Great Bengal Famine of 1770 and the Madras Famine or Famine of 1877 existed until that time, as revealed by Bhatia (1985). The employment plans with rationing and resource migration strategies in the relief codes encountered criticism because persons who opposed these modifications declared that economic interests lay above humanitarian goals. These measures remained limited and conservative because British authorities did not move away from suppressing rebellion, regardless of their inability to help the population in need. The current famine management system allows the prevention of all famines resulting from suitable partnerships by using an unprofessional response model (Sen, 1981).

Post-Independence India: Rise of Social Work as a Discipline (Mid-1900s to 1990s)

The government established local welfare policies in 1947 to establish state-controlled social assistance programmes for both IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) and disaster survivors. The planning commission collaborated with the community development programme and five-year planning, which focused on food problems and farm employment, and rural physical infrastructure, along with other areas (Planning Commission of India, 1951). What may be termed as professional social work emerged alongside training programmes for specialised practitioners during this time. Social work professionals established academic curricula to instruct their organisational members about crisis intervention methods and rural development principles. Regional areas impacted by famine received support through the activities of SEWA and Action Aid, and Oxfam, which involved community acceptance as described by Kumar during his research in 1997. Social work assistance underwent a significant transformation, which evolved into locally based community development and volunteers and policy advocates, and trainers.

A MAJOR CHALLENGE EXISTS REGARDING CHARITY-BASED SOLUTIONS IN ADDRESSING WIDE-SCALE FAMINES AND THEIR ONGOING SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS

Organisations that collaborate for the development interventions currently utilise modern failure response practices from the twenty-first century. The National Disaster Management Act (2005) from the Indian government enabled the establishment of response structures at both the national and state levels throughout the nation. After completing their training, these social workers practise a combined profession with health caregivers and nutritionists and developmental area officers, and psychologists. The social workers gain technical help along with funding transfers from international organisations like the World Bank and FAO, and UN organisations for their policy-making work, which integrates GIS systems with mobile applications and AI software prediction models. Today's famine responders distribute emergency food supplies to victims but simultaneously dedicate efforts toward sustaining development goals through rights advocacy and combined advocacy campaigns. Modern society of the 21st century has emerged from these humanitarian famine responses, which form essential elements of partners for development approaches. The government of India

established the National Disaster Management Act (2005) to create structures for disaster response between national and state disaster management authorities throughout India. The practice of trained social work professionals follows professional standards at present by working with health workers and psychologists and nutritionists, and development planners. The World Bank and FAO, along with UN organisations, supply technology assistance through grants and analytical support for developing disaster warning capabilities and food security networks that social workers need (FAO, 2016). The combination of Circular Information Systems and mobile apps enhanced with AI prediction software technology supports policy development by social workers. Social workers today who intervene in famines move past basic food distribution to conduct both advocacy work and rights advocacy work during their planning of sustainable development.

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In this case, charity has become the main form of response that people have put their faith into in terms of first aid during food shortage crises. Whereas, charity organisations and rescue operations that would otherwise not have commonly coordinated their efforts were rooted in religious and personal values and morality. These amelioration efforts availed food aid to the famine-affected populace but lacked enough cohesiveness to restore specific famine stability prerequisites or establish sustainable improvement structures. This paper critically assesses the following as part of the primary issues that charity responses to famine lack organisational abilities to handle major disasters of famine and lack a structural approach to systematic and sustainable economic and social endeavours.

Charity-based food solutions for hunger problems are often associated with several critical issues affecting the large-scale emergencies and social and economic aftermaths. Coordination, together with planning, is the area that is most needed in this particular case. There is ample charitable assistance from the local community, especially through local operators, even if religious and individual-based bodies are not subordinate to a particular centre. The secondary aid duplication takes place every time there is a decentralised aid distribution to some of the affected centres because other centres do not receive any assistance,

and the aid that is given is not concentrated in the abandoned areas. Kilns argued that rural villages in Bengal lost high numbers of people due to famine during 1943 because food supply centres that had been established as charitable organisations paid attention solely to the city of Calcutta, as described by Greenough in 1982. Emerging parallel programmes cannot increase their relief work in national disasters as the volunteer groups do not have a centralised data authority, coupled with strategic planning for the increase in timing and scaling, and operational effectiveness. The main principle of charity entails providing food and shelter, together with clothing, after overlooking the real causes of famine. It can be concluded that weak agricultural productivity, combined with an unstable pattern of property rights and market failures, as well as irresponsible actions by the government, is the main reason behind famine.

Radical reforms at a macro level should be made to allow charitable strategies to address the issues rather than addressing the symptoms of such issues. Famine reoccurs as established in the entitlement failure theory by Amartya Sen because the population is denied access to food, as opposed to the lapse in the distribution of food. Employment schemes, together with agricultural reforms and social security, defence, and infrastructural development, are more important strategies that will help develop solutions, as it has been proven that traditional charity does not work.

The primary weakness of charity-based aid comes to light when it results in disability and vulnerability in the recipients. Continuation of all handicapped assistance to the recipients who do not have chances of self-reliance makes them unable to stand on their own and gain independence, besides lowering their self-esteem. The various people rarely engage in reconstruction activities or development projects, hence, economic growth slows down. Self-help or microfinance programmes are offered with the participation of social workers who conduct training with communities alongside teaching and enablement for their recovery. The approaches to famine as a factor of resilience contradict as the sole key to offering a firm sustenance to the starved people for long.

The primary approach of charity consists of delivering immediate shelter and food, along with clothing, without solving the fundamental reasons behind famine. The fundamental causes behind famine exist as a combination of low agricultural output, irregular property ownership, market system breakdowns, and government abandonment of responsibility. Massive systemic

changes need to take place before charity-based approaches can address the root causes instead of resolving mere symptom manifestations. According to Amartya Sen's failure of exchange entitlement theory (F.E.E.), famine develops more frequently because people lose their capacity to get food rather than because food disappears completely, which he has named as Food Availability Decline (F.A.D.) (Sen, 1981). Traditional charity cannot deliver sustainable solutions.Therefore, employment schemes together with agricultural reforms with infrastructural development, and social security measures represent essential initiatives.

Thus, the major limitation of providing charity-based assistance is evident when it creates dependency and helpless situations within recipients. The provision of continuing support to the survivors, in that they don't have any hope of employment, reduces their morale in addition to hampering their efforts to claim their independence. This is so because, economically, people begin to stagnate instead of contributing to the reconstruction process or restoration and development activities. The microfinance programmes of social work professionals help in training beneficiaries as well as in the development of skills with social work professionals with communities, to enable the beneficiaries to assist in their recovery. About the approach towards the prevention of famine, the door to ensuring strong resilience among these starving populations in the long run can be credited to this factor.

Missionary work based on charity work does not have much effect on changing policies and bringing significant changes in structures. That is because when many people rely on charity, this leads to a problem. After all, governments can avoid their responsibilities to address food insecurity and erode the public pressure for systemic changes and enhancement in food insecurity programmes, disaster preparedness systems, and welfare networks. This constant charitable activity causes stagnation or even a stoppage of key legislation from experiencing necessary improvements. There are two main types of institutions implicated in policy advocacy roles, and they include the organised social work and development organisations. CSOs supported the activism required for the National Food Security Act (2013) to be passed in India. This Act of the Indian government provided food grain subsidy rights to almost two-thirds of the total population while implementing the change strategy in food security policies and programmes.

Moral impulses and compassionate responses, which underpin charity-based aid, prevent organisations from applying effective strategies during large-scale famine situations. Such organisations base their decision-making on spontaneous reactions rather than strategic planning since they do not participate systematically in social programmes. These interventions stay short-lived because systematic solutions remain out of reach. Therefore, they fail to create a lasting impact on need fulfilment. When social work practices at the professional level unite with institutional methods, they develop permanent solutions to handle immediate needs while resolving long-term socio-economic dangers. When social work transitions toward organised and professional structures, it permits individuals to reclaim their power while improving governmental accountability and structure management.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT POLICIES TOGETHER WITH NGOs AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES, ASSIST THE EVOLUTION OF ORGANISED SOCIAL WORK SYSTEMS.

It is from this organisational impulsion of charity-oriented famine relief that formal organised social work practice evolved due to the action of various institutional players, such as governmental and non-governmental institutions and international agencies. The supporters offered their contribution that ensured that the field practices of humanitarianism and famine were professionalised, and framed the famine source analysis using social work values in the development of emergency response programmes. By engaging in cooperation, these stakeholders have transformed famine identification into a continuous socio-economic problem that requires constant help from strong evidence. The study shows how each of the actors contributed to this great development of humanitarian and social development field practices.

Government Policies: Institutionalizing Social Work in Famine Relief

When the colonial masters dismantled India along with other post-colonial governments got involved in the process of institutionalisation of certain professionalised practices of social work through welfare programmes that created bureaucratic welfare rather than charismatic humanitarianism. Due to the post-1947 Indian state, the government set up certain developmental policies which ensured feeding the poor during crises and giving them employment, The two policies that led to professional rural social work practice standards

included the Community Development Programme launched in India in 1952 and the Integrated Rural Development Programme launched in 1978 (Planning Commission of India, 1951).

Three major areas were developed by social work institutionalisation, and these are the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, social welfare boards, and the state disaster management authorities. The government enhanced food security policy through the National Disaster Management Act of 2005 and the National Food Security Act of 2013, and had an advantage with administrative support (GoI. 2013). Like the rights voiced in the legislation, food distribution rights and disaster relief systems were set up to do away with the mechanization of charity.

NGOs: Bridging Gaps and Empowering Communities

In an attempt to implement formulated social and economic values in areas that undergo farming failure, NGOs employ their assets to make certified commercial principles efficient in the affected regions. This bureaucracy has adverse effects on the governmental institutions, but does not impact the NGOs because they have a more flexible approach to their work, therefore using grassroots-level and community models. State policies are directly linked to these organisations that implement their support at the local level.

SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association), plus Oxfam and CARE, collectively along with ActionAid, are working in many relief operations within the famine-stricken India, besides Ethiopia and the Sahel zone. Several organisations do not only focus on emergency distribution but likewise devote themselves to developmental and preparedness measures as well. Their programs often include many aspects of providing relief and other helps like the organisation provides training to local women who will then work as community health workers along with-

- Introducing drought-resistant agricultural practices.
- Providing microcredit and livelihood support.

The organisation also works toward establishing community relations to establish both food equity and land sovereignty.

These interventions are used by Non-Governmental Organisations to provide indications of the component parts of social work practise within the organisation through reactive empowerments and participative sustainable systems. This is because their major activities in the course of data gathering and assessing human needs as well as evaluating the impact of their relief outcomes generate better service response from the authorities.

Some of the services provided by NGOs are intermediary services where the government lacks the necessary infrastructure to directly provide services to the people. It was for the first time that local NGOs responded to the 2015 emergencies such as drought in Maharashtra through partnership to implement projects for local employment and water conservation with governmental departments.

International Organizations: Setting Standards and Supporting Infrastructure

At the global level, organisations develop crucial functions that convert donors' acts of philanthropy into mechanisms that shape global development. WFP and FAO team up with UNICEF and the World Bank through multiple organisational frameworks to support the building of protected social programmes in the countries of the world. Thus, those agencies utilise agency models to create a food supply chain and build effective farming and disaster management systems. The IPC is offered by the FAO as a measure to analyse food scenarios for better response, in which both public sector institutions and humanitarian organisations may coordinate their joint response measures (FAO, 2016).

That is why the receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015 was beneficial for the World Food Programme since it provides non-shelter aid in the form of food and nutritional help in the regions affected by famine. As an organisation, it supports itself through collaboration with both national governments and community NGOs to provide assistance that complies with the cultural expectations of a given society and addresses geographical location. With these forms of funding, both the international donors and assorted financial institutions support the development of social work institutions by underpinning principal policy change processes and the social development operations. A food subsidy mechanism and safety measures were introduced by developing nations since the structural adjustment demands were under discussion in the 1980-1990s period.

Collaborative Impact and Interconnected Roles

Organised social work and its current context differ from other systems, as it brings governmental support of social initiatives together with NGO actions and the activity of international organisations. Modern organised social work in a particular country begins with government policies that may implement NGO activities and with financial assistance from international organisations. The three entities make a complete programme that connects the response efforts to the programmes of recovery while at the same time strengthening the strength of the communities.

Civil society organisations from India demanded NREGA, and external facilitators in terms of evaluations bolstered it. Thus, South Asian disaster management training programmes emerge from partnered efforts of national disaster representatives and skilled employees in either UNDP or UNICEF. This is through the cooperation of different stakeholders to enhance an understanding that famine is a developmental issue which requires cross-sectional solution to be implemented on all levels.

This is because there are now available professionals in social work, thus participating in the charity-based famine relief practices because of the synergy between governments, NGOs, and international organisations. Developing policies and legal structures arise from governments, and after that, programmes that make these structures operational at the community level are implemented by NGOs, and at the global level, programmes are supported through international organisations as sources of funds, knowledge, and cooperation. These stakeholders, therefore, shifted the way of combating famine by transforming it from short-term handouts to long-term sustainable solutions for the famine-affected communities. Therefore, the success in creating a sustainable future human population and its progress, rather than aggravation by climate change, food shock risks and pandemics, and conflicts,becomes a direct effect of efficient and well–organized social work institutions.

The transformation of the charity and the disaster relief vision to systematic social work was witnessed through the transition in beliefs and the changes that occurred in the facilities. Before the twentieth century, relief for the famine was performed in a small-scale, localised manner and was governed by religious values. These factors were unable to offer plausible solutions to

the compound social crisis and the economic and political factors that led to famine, as famine is compounded by food deficits. This was evidenced by the 1943 Bengal Famine, as well as other mass catastrophes, which demonstrated that, whereas random donation is acceptable, the practice is, however, counterproductive. This is why the assistance of professionals in delivering emergency relief is needed.

This led to the need to organise the practice of social work because of the advancement of politics, education in the field of social work, as well as increased awareness of prejudices in different systems. The initial structure of the first nations of post-independence India for famine relief programmes and broad public development schemes began with the introduction of Domestic and International NGOs and Organisations that required technical support along with humanitarian aid and knowledge. The approach to operating to undertake social work shifted from temporary measures that are priorities and emergencies, to advocating for community development programmes aimed at building strengths and supporting groups for enhancement.

Social workers use strategies that include plans of action on famine through the integration of policies and technologies that involve people. These implemented strategies cater for the current IDP/emergency needs and also the long-term poverty reduction interventions to address land rights and governance problems. Field solutions in Afghanistan are created through a multisectoral intersectional approach, in which the governmental institutions and NGOs work together, and international bodies are used to assist them.

From charitable activities, professional social work was formed to impart the fundamental unity of systematic research and institutional management for an efficient famine organisation. This type of method should assist the disadvantaged group while at the same time ensuring that the governments are held to task for their behaviour. As demonstrated herein, effective relief initiatives are the only viable course that societies in the face of famine can take to lower the impacts of famines and fashion out social resilience.

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