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# **MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**

## **PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL GROUP WORK**

**Douglas** has described **fourteen principles** of social group work.

- 1) Recognition and subsequent action in relation to the unique difference of each individual.
- 2) Recognition and subsequent action in relation to the wide variety of groups as groups.
- 3) Genuine acceptance of each individual with his unique strengths and weaknesses.
- 4) Establishment of a purposeful relationship between group worker and group members.
- 5) Encouragement and enabling of help and cooperative relationship between members.
- 6) Appropriate modification of the group process.
- 7) Encouragement of each member to participate according to the stage of his capacity and enabling him to become more capable.
- 8) Enabling members to involve themselves in the process of problem solving.
- 9) Enabling group members to experience increasingly satisfactory forms of working through conflicts.
- 10) Provision of opportunities for new and differing experience in relationships and accomplishments.
- 11) Judicious use of limitations related to the diagnostic assessment of each individual and total situation.
- 12) Purposeful and differential use of programme according to diagnostic evaluation of individual members group purpose and appropriate social goals.
- 13) Ongoing evaluation of individual and group progress.
- 14) Humane and disciplined use of self on the part of the group worker.

**On the basis of different principles discussed by different social work authors, we may summarize as follows.**

- 1) Principle of planned organisation of the group.
- 2) Principle of understanding each individual as a member of a group and as an individual.
- 3) Principle of equality.
- 4) Principle of understanding relationship as tool for solving group problems as well as individual problems and also for development of the group.
- 5) Principle of encouragement of each member of the group.
- 6) Principle of recognition of variety of groups with different objectives.

7) Principle of self-development, i.e. full opportunity to the group to organise its programmes according to its needs.

8) Principle of self problem solving. Members should be involved in understating and solving problems themselves.

9) Principle of use of programme according to diagnosis of the group. Different types of programmes are needed according to the problems of the group.

10) Principle of experience development. Each member of the group should get opportunity to act and express his feelings in the group.

11) Principle of understanding the importance of group life in shaping and moulding one's character and personality. The group worker should believe the importance of group experience.

12) Principle of understanding the group process and its different elements, for example, group structure, role and status, division of responsibility, etc.

13) Principle of understanding familiarity with the process of cooperation, conflict, accommodation, resistance and ambivalence in the group. This knowledge is essential to handle the different group situation.

14) Principle of modification in-group process. The group worker always keeps in mind the result of group activities. If it is not as it is required he suggests the group members to modify their activities and programmes.

15) Principle of providing new opportunities. It is the job of group worker to make aware the group about the opportunities of work in different fields and also the ways and means to avail these opportunities.

16) Principle of use of constructive limitations. Nobody is perfect. This is also applicable to the group members. Whatever the capacity and ability they have should be used properly by the group and whatever the limitations, they should fully understand and attempts should be made to work within these limitations.

17) Principle of conscious use of himself/herself. The role of group worker is to guide the interaction process of the group. He/She should interfere in the group activities only when group members should demand for his/her help. Members of the group should not feel that the worker is unnecessary interferes in their affairs.

18) Principle of use of scientific action plan. It means that the social group worker first find out the problem of the group or collect data and on the basis of collected facts, the diagnosis is done. After that action plan should be prepared for the solution of the problem and for the development of the group.

19) Principle of acceptance. It means that the group worker should accept the members as they are without condemning any weakness. At group level, it must accept the services of the group worker.

20) Principle of understanding values. Values are the guiding force for behaviour expression, they must be kept in mind while dealing with the group problems.

21) Principle of determination of specific objectives. Objectives should be clear for the group as well as to the group worker.

22) Principle of resource utilization. The group may have different kind of needs and these needs cannot be fulfilled by one agency and therefore the worker should tap the resources of the community.

23) Principle of evaluation, continuous examination and evaluation of group activities.