

PERSPECTIVE OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

INDEX

- Introduction
- Historical development
- Social assistance today
- Organization of social services
- Final considerations

Alberto Sarmiento Calderó

INTRODUCTION

There are different ways to cope with the needy groups.

- PRIVATE SYSTEM ISOLATED

Known as 'spontaneous informal system' or 'family system'.

Family help

- PRIVATE SYSTEM OF SOCIAL ACTION

Voluntary organizations without profit intentions.

Caritas

- COMERCIAL SYSTEM

Private organizations or service companies with profit intentions.

Nursery, retirement homes

- STATE RESPONSE

Nowdays, it is the main responsible. Control to the others systems.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Different phases can be distinguished.

- CHARITY

Mainly developed during the Middle Age.
Religious action.

- BENEFICENCE

The beginnings of public beneficence are located in XVI century.
Continued development during XVII century with important changes.

- SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Appears in the XVIII century.
Gradually developed until today.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TODAY

- Social services are a way to cover economic and social imbalances, which aims is to achieve the quality of life for everyone and collective welfare.
- Social services have special attention in risky groups:
 - Youth
 - Elderly
 - Physical handicapped
 - Psychical handicapped
 - Sensorial handicapped
- Values:
 - Universality
 - Equality
 - Solidarity
 - Prevention
 - Public responsibility
 - Decentralization
 - Standardization and integration
 - Participation
 - Planning and coordination
 - Globalization

ORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Organized in:

- COMMUNITY SERVICES

First attendance.

Services:

- Information and orientation
- Social cooperation
- Home help
- Coexistence and social reintegration

- SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Specialized and technical level of attendance.

Directed to a specific sector:

- Children and youth
- Third age
- Women
- People with physical, mental or sensory disability
- Addicts and alcoholics
- Ethnic minorities
- Groups with antisocial behaviors
- Collective marginalized
- Others groups

ORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Specialized places:

- Day centers
- Reception centers
- Residences
- Nursery
- Occupational centers
- Therapeutic communities
- Social hostels and canteens

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Social services are the result of a long historical evolution.
- Social demand was the base of social services.
- Social services are an essential element to improve the quality of life.
- Social services as a public system.