

because children may suffer due to informal family foundations which are likely not to surely pass the test of time. Besides:

- ✦ Many social work clients come from a family setting
- ✦ The family is a source of provision ideally from blood kinds for its members they are obligated to look after its members.
- ✦ Its members and therefore, because of this capacity, social workers need to support its functioning therefore, unless the family institution stabilizes human welfare is threatened and society too can never be stable.
- ✦ The family is also seen as key in preventing or solving
- ✦ The family can highly destroy or support the welfare of its members and therefore, because of this capacity, social workers need to support its functioning therefore, unless the family institution stabilizes human welfare is threatened- society too can never be stable.
- ✦ The family is also seen as key in preventing or solving many social problems e.g. Illiteracy, emotional disturbances, personality disturbances etc. therefore, social workers engage in family based social work practice.
- ✦ The family is key in character formation
- ✦ It is a basis of moral foundation; and also, career development.
- ✦ Social workers appreciate that children are best raised in their family of origin.
- ✦ That closely linked to the foregoing, family is a centre of personality formation & stabilization.
- ✦ In case of abuse, the family is capable of destroying its member's adult life in terms of behavior opportunities health etc.



## CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL WORK

**Social work is a unique profession from other disciplines in many ways:**

1. **It emphasizes understanding people:** how they feel about themselves, others, and how they relate with other people (a client may tell you "I am fed up of people"). This statement is quite revealing. The person is too frustrated and does not believe in himself or other people and could be, he/she has had a series of disappointments. The person really needs a social worker's understanding and attention. Do not judge the person yet. Have immediate plans to share and help "this" client, before they endanger themselves or other people.

The concept of understanding people is made possible for social workers by the knowledge they borrow from psychology, sociology and other social sciences

2. **It recognizes that social problems and behavior may arise from social institutions-** like the families we belong to, the schools we study from the churches us fellowship from, health centers, etc. Social workers are encouraged to establish how well such organizations are serving people/ contributing to people's welfare/ instead damaging it. May be the client is a responsible person, plays their roles well, but the institutions are the ones that are causing problems to them hence need to direct change to such institutions if a client's life should be improved upon and protected.

3. **Social work emphasizes the importance of the family**

Social work appreciates the family as a basic nurturing environment which supports healthy growth and development of children, they see it as a primary unit of socialization and reproduction (children should be born in a context of a family, not through casual arrangements