

# Research paper

## **WELFARE STATE**

Student's Name

Course

Date

## Welfare State

The governing approach where the national government plays a pivotal role in the promotion and protection of the social well-being and the economy of its citizens is termed as a welfare state. The term has a rich history and is guided by the principles of equitable wealth distribution and equality of opportunities (Korpi, 2010). In the 19th century and early 20th century, the church, trade unions, and charities started to participate actively in helping the poor (Bergqvist, Åberg & Lundberg, 2013). Despite the government not being a favorable organization in delivering a program, it is suitable for providing welfare services without any hidden agenda. While different factors challenge the provision of the welfare state, it is more difficult for a government to lead a country where people are struggling to get primary social benefits (Mandel & Semyonov, 2006). Thus, a current research provides a discourse on the factors that lead to the emergence of the welfare state in different systems and regimes.

The emergence of the welfare state was significantly influenced by social policy, which was formed due to changes in the economy. The welfare state influences the policies which are made to govern economical, cultural, and social conditions putting force on the legislative regulations. Industrialization is an integral factor, which contributed to the development of state welfare in the industrial revolution (Gough, 2015). During the industrial revolution, there was a massive improvement in the economy, while on the other hand, it created social problems. In an attempt to solve these social problems caused by the industrial revolution, there was the formation of a balance of the social policies and the economy. Industrialization caused people to migrate to the industrial regions leading to negative effects, poverty, and new professions (Korpi, 2010). During that time Otto von Bismarck advocated for social welfare that catered for heavy and long working conditions, need for accident and disability insurance (Bergqvist, Åberg & Lundberg, 2013). The solution, which was created, was the adoption of the liberal economic understanding where the free-market economy was proposed.

The free market economy was initiated because the government interventions were seen to affect the balance, which was created between the economy and social needs. Nonetheless, the liberal intervention caused the majority of the population to become impoverished, leading to failure of social welfare (Bergqvist, Åberg & Lundberg, 2013). The Laissez-Faire approach caused those that owned capital to become rich while the labored became poorer. In countering the challenge, there was a rise in the neoliberal approach. There was then involvement of the government in regulating and intervening on the economy to ensure that social expectations are met (Mandel & Semyonov, 2006). Through government involvement, there was an improvement in wages, working hours, and working conditions. During this time, the role of the government in the developed capitalist world, such as the United States, Germany, and France, was increased (Bergqvist, Åberg & Lundberg, 2013). The effects of World War II intensified the importance of government involvement through the Keynesian policy approach.

The economic depression in 1929 significantly affected people, especially the poor ones, and the social policies that catered for their needs. Thus, the importance of social welfare was increased during this

time, and it had more scope than during the industrialization period (Bergqvist, Åberg & Lundberg, 2013). The issues, which were being addressed, were above the labor sector, and they included child and elderly care, health services, gender discriminations, poverty, and employment as well as environmental factors.

The emergence of globalization caused problems in the role of government in the welfare state. There was the adoption of a neoliberal attitude where the local administration's effectiveness was improved, and the welfare of the people was left to the private sector on the profits organizations (Korpi, 2010). The social policy was also influenced by the supranational and international organizations.

### **The Role of Worldviews such as Judeo-Christian Worldview and Marxism may Play in the Emergence of Welfare States**

#### **Judeo-Christian**

Judeo-Christian worldview strongly advises on the need for having charitable actions. While every member of the church is required to conduct philanthropic deeds, the government should support such actions. The Bible, which is the spiritual book guiding Christianity, is meant to for everyone. Since God uses the Bible in communicating with us directly, following the reading one is not supposed to see other sufferings. In this regard, state welfare is promoted as it will lead to equality, freedom, and rights as well as equal opportunity. Equality is when people are treated fairly through equal opportunities (Berry, 2014). While providing equal opportunities, there should be no discrimination based on the background of a person or their gender. Opportunities, in this case, refers to both education, health, and better payment. When a person has food, good housing, and better working conditions, it is presumed that the treatment is based on the teaching of Christianity.

#### **Marxism**

According to Marxism, the society is based on the conflict that exists between the different economic classes. The dominant class that owns the capital is termed as the bourgeoisie while the laborer or working-class is referred to as a proletariat. The economic order, which has been established by the bourgeoisie, leads to the suffering of the working class by as they are poor and lack the social needs (Berry, 2014). Thus, it is the role of the government in promoting the welfare of the proletariat by preventing their exploitation. The doctrine of Marxism has different facets as outlined by the neo-Marxist claiming the state can either support the capitalist, so the industries to make profits or to promote welfare. The option of promoting the welfare policy, such as health services and the pensions, will lead attainment of the state welfare. In preventing the conflict between the working class and the capitalist, the need for promoting state welfare is encouraged.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, state welfare functions for the promotion of the well-being of the people of the state. In the economy, people, mostly those of the low social-economic status, tend to suffer from the mistreatment from the upper class. However, while the circumstances may not favor these people, it is the action of the government to ensure that people have good health, payments, working conditions, and education. While the government can have a negative impact on the economy while catering for the social needs, social community responsibility can be promoted through globalization and private companies. The improvement of the economy should go hand in hand with improved social welfare regardless of the lack of government involvement.

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