

# Foundations of **SOCIAL SCIENCE** and **SOCIAL WORK**

Understanding Humanity,  
Society and Human Development



SOCIETY



HUMANITY



WELFARE



JUSTICE



DEVELOPMENT



Dr Anjali Chandulal Lakum

# Foundations of Social Science and Social Work: Understanding Humanity, Society and Human Development



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# Foundations of Social Science and Social Work: Understanding Humanity, Society and Human Development

*Authored by:*

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## Preface

The study of social science and social work plays a vital role in understanding human behavior, social relationships, cultural systems, and the challenges faced by individuals and communities in modern society. *Foundations of Social Science and Social Work: Understanding Humanity, Society, and Human Development* has been prepared with the objective of providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental concepts, theories, and practices related to social sciences and social work.

This book presents an interdisciplinary approach by integrating important aspects of sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, political science, and human development along with the principles and methods of professional social work. It aims to help readers understand the dynamics of society, social institutions, human needs, social problems, and the role of social workers in promoting welfare, justice, equality, and community empowerment.

Special emphasis has been placed on presenting the content in a simple, systematic, and student-friendly manner so that learners from diverse academic backgrounds can easily understand and apply the concepts in academic, professional, and community settings. Contemporary social issues such as poverty, gender inequality, mental health, child welfare, aging, social exclusion, and community development have also been discussed to connect theoretical understanding with practical realities.

This book is intended for students, teachers, researchers, and professionals associated with social sciences, social work, humanities, and allied disciplines. We sincerely hope that this book will serve as a valuable academic resource and inspire readers to contribute positively toward social development and human welfare.

## Acknowledgement

The authors express their sincere gratitude to all those who directly and indirectly contributed to the completion of this book, *Foundations of Social Science and Social Work: Understanding Humanity, Society, and Human Development*. The successful preparation of this work would not have been possible without the guidance, encouragement, and support of many individuals and institutions.

We are deeply thankful to our teachers, mentors, academic colleagues, and subject experts whose valuable suggestions and scholarly insights helped in shaping the content and structure of this book. We also acknowledge the contribution of researchers, authors, and scholars whose published works served as important references during the preparation of the manuscript.

Special appreciation is extended to our family members and friends for their continuous encouragement, patience, and moral support throughout the writing process. Their understanding and motivation gave us the strength to complete this work successfully.

We also thank the publishers, editors, and technical staff for their cooperation and efforts in bringing this book into its present form. Finally, we express our gratitude to the students, readers, and professionals in the field of social sciences and social work whose learning needs inspired the creation of this book.

We hope this book will contribute meaningfully to academic learning, professional development, and social understanding.

## Table of Contents

Title of Chapters	Page No.
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	1 – 14
<i>Foundations Of Humanity and Society</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	15 – 27
<i>Historical Evolution of Social Science and Social Work</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	28 – 41
<i>Human Development Across The Lifespan</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	42 – 53
<i>Social Systems, Institutions, And Structures</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	54 – 66
<i>Culture, Identity, And Diversity</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 6</b>	67 – 80
<i>Social Problems And Human Vulnerabilities</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	81 – 94
<i>Research Methods In Social Science And Social Work</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 8</b>	95 – 108
<i>Policies, Rights, And Social Justice</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 9</b>	109 – 124
<i>Interventions, Strategies, And Professional Practice</i>	

<b>CHAPTER 10</b>	125 – 140
<i>The Future of Humanity, Social Science and Social Work</i>	
<i>References</i>	141 – 146

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**Dr Anjali Chandulal Lakum** is an Assistant Professor in the Online MSW Programme at the Centre for Distance and Online Education, Parul Institute of Social Work, Parul University, India. She holds a PhD and MPhil in Science, Society and Development from the Central University of Gujarat and specialises in social work, grassroots innovation, inclusive development, and science–technology–society (STS) studies. Her research critically examines the intersections of community knowledge systems, informal-sector innovation, social exclusion, and development policy in the Global South. Drawing from both social work and interdisciplinary social science perspectives, her work focuses on grassroots innovation, technology diffusion, gender and caste inequalities, tribal development, digital marginalisation, and welfare access among vulnerable communities. Dr Lakum has published in internationally indexed journals, including *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* (Elsevier) and the *African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development*. Her broader academic contributions engage with issues of social justice, inclusive innovation, mental health, community empowerment, and technology-mediated inequalities within contemporary development processes. As a social work educator and researcher, she has supervised postgraduate research dissertations and contributed to curriculum development, e-content creation, and interdisciplinary academic initiatives in social work education. She has presented her research at national and international academic forums, including Oxford University conferences, ICCIG at IIM Ahmedabad, and the Globelics Academy in Finland. Her work is informed by sustained engagement with grassroots innovators, marginalised communities, and alternative development frameworks in India. *Rethinking Innovation Failure: Expectations in Grassroots Innovation* builds on this long-term research engagement and examines how expectations, institutions, and social structures shape the trajectories of grassroots innovations.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Foundations of Social Science and Social Work: Understanding Humanity, Society, and Human Development* is a comprehensive and insightful book designed to introduce readers to the core concepts, principles, and applications of social sciences and social work. The book explores the interrelationship between individuals, society, culture, institutions, and human behavior while emphasizing the importance of understanding human development across different stages of life. It provides a multidisciplinary perspective by integrating knowledge from sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, political science, and social work practice.

The book highlights the role of social work in addressing social issues, promoting social justice, empowering vulnerable populations, and improving community well-being. It discusses major social institutions, social problems, human rights, ethics, communication, counseling approaches, and the significance of professional values in social work practice. Special attention is given to contemporary challenges such as poverty, inequality, gender issues, mental health, child welfare, aging, and community development.

Written in a clear and student-friendly manner, this book serves as an essential resource for students, educators, researchers, and professionals in the fields of social sciences, social work, humanities, and community development. With its balanced blend of theoretical foundations and practical insights, the book aims to develop critical understanding, empathy, and professional competence among readers committed to social transformation and human welfare.



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