

The Spinoffs Associated with the Welfare System in Selected Countries and the Implications for Social Work Practice

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ABSTRACT Worldwide, conditions of poverty have reached unprecedented levels that require solutions to possibly abate the situation. This paper explores reasons the welfare system fails, with a special focus on Australia and South Africa, to address these conditions and to document implications for social work practice. A literature review methodology was used to locate the background for welfare provisioning and approach as a basis for discussion. Findings point towards excessive dependence by prospective and present beneficiaries on the government's finances to provide welfare. Further, inconsistencies through risk, time and context aggravate and dampen welfare policy and its effectiveness to address mixed problems faced by the people, while the global problem of homelessness is also not being adequately addressed resulting in social and health implications. Promulgating a pro-poor policy research approach, and eliciting the dynamics of people's problems accurately and timeously can enable governments to minimize risk.