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Danish Raw Material

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## **The silent clash – an up-grading of social work !**

Social work in our societies began the march from acts of benevolent persons to a profession long time ago. Persons working in the social sector won't any longer wait to the next life for their outcome, they expect to have a standard of living comparable to any other in our society. Along this process social work becomes integrated into public affairs, - becomes subject to the general conditions in the contemporary society. NGO's depend increasingly on governmental funding – nowadays often to be obtained through tenders, - competitions. Since the resources for social work takes up a considerable portion of any public budget the need for cost-benefit points of view is eminent. Thus clear goals and demands for descriptions of methods are built into most grants, - and good management comes in need.

This makes for simple, transparent measures of success – something social work suffered the lack of until recently, whereby social workers often became victims of doubt of the value of the outcome of their efforts. They operated in a foggy world, - could always have done more.

We are entering an era where societies points of view on citizens in need of social services changes from one of marginalized members to one where the focus is on the kind and amount of resources in each person's possession, - and where the efforts stress means and ways to include these persons and groups into contributing positions in the society.

Thus citizens are viewed more as potential assets – than present burdens. Our complex contemporary society attempts to put up efforts to counteract exclusion. Persons working in this sector will change their role from social workers to social engineers. Thus we might soon see the day when highly good and efficient social work will be recognized by payments equal to the payment professionals, who are good and efficient to repair machines, can obtain. Social work is about to leave the era of industrialism to enter the knowledge-based functioning.

NGO's with funding independent of public funding can of course delay this developmental process, - but probably not avoid it in the longer run, - unless it accepts a marginalized importance in it's area.

Most of the sounds accompanying this process are the usual sighs and screams you hear whenever old privileges come under attack.