

Strategies for social care

Objective 5.3

To understand the strategic connection between social care, development systems, and the politics of system change.

In addressing this question, we return to some of the basic themes concerning the rise of social welfare as a central component of the liberal democratic state in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Neo-liberalism always entailed the elimination of a public welfare role for the state, with the recent push for privatization being at the heart of neo-liberal policies globally. As Nancy Maclean shows in her book “Democracy in Chains” and in her interview with Real News included in this module, destroying social programs such as public education, universal health care, and social welfare is an essential strategy for undermining the power and role of democratic government.

In this closing section of the module we pursue the question of how ownership and control of public goods has a direct effect on the role of the state vis-à-vis its relationship to civil society and service to the public interest, and how, in turn, democratization of social care systems relates to system change. In particular, we focus on the developmental systems and strategies—from both the state and civil society—that are essential for transitioning to a co-operative commonwealth system.

5.12 Watch “If the Right People Don’t Have Power—Yes Prime Minister.” (2:44)

If the right people don't have power - Yes, Prime Minister - ...



BBC Studios. “If the Right People Don’t Have Power—Yes, Prime Minister,” video, 2:44, posted by the creator to YouTube, April 29, 2010.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmOvEwtDycs> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmOvEwtDycs>

For a humorous take on regional government and its opposition by the status quo, enjoy this particularly

biting take on the issue as presented by Sir Humphrey in the BBC's classic send up of British politics in this clip of Yes, Prime Minister.

5.13 Read “Kerala, India: Decentralized Governance and Community Engagement Strengthen Primary Care Emphasis on Health Reform.” (5 minutes)

Primary Health Care Performance Initiative. “Kerala, India: Decentralized Governance and Community Engagement Strengthen Primary Care Emphasis on Health Reform,” PHCPI, accessed January 31, 2019. <https://improvingphc.org/promising-practices/kerala> <https://improvingphc.org/promising-practices/kerala>

The People's Campaign for Decentralized Planning in Kerala may be the world's largest experiment in democratizing governance and the planning of public services. In this article, the writer focuses on the ways in which health care outcomes have been radically improved through a combination of decentralized decision-making and community mobilization, coupled with progressive, state-driven public policy. The central role of the state in catalyzing such an effort is highlighted, as is the pervasive challenge of public disinvestment and the growth of privatized health systems.