



AN OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL WORKERS ROLE IN CHILD PROTECTION AND PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

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Abstract:

Over the course of the past several years, there has been a growing awareness of the adverse effects that social service workers are subjected to. One of the most effective ways to raise awareness about the need of safeguarding is by providing adequate training. Moreover, those working in social and health care services must have access to a variety of risk assessment methods and scales. However, larger organizational and social factors may also help or hinder people in recognizing the potential of abuse and taking necessary action. This will depend on the circumstances. This review was conducted through searching the literature in multiple electronic databases.

A very important among child protection the social workers at social service departments, significant contribution was found for social support and effectiveness of supervision and identifies factors that can prevent children abuse whether at home or in any social care services, managing those children who are exposed to the trauma of child abuse victims.

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Introduction:

Children can experience physical, sexual, emotional, and neglectful or intentional abuse, which can occur in many combinations within these categories. Traditionally, the child protection system has primarily allocated its scarce resources towards avoiding mistreatment and ensuring stability and welfare of children who were previously recognized as victims of abuse or neglect [1].

When working with children who are at danger of being abused, there are four stages; a few examples of these include identification, appraisal, immediate protection, and preparing for the future. Continuous education in this complex and rapidly evolving subject is, without a doubt, the most significant ethical commitment that any professional who is involved in this activity is obligated to fulfill. Not only does this require a knowledge of the child's family, society as a whole and culture, as well as the legal framework that is available for safeguarding the child, but it also necessitates the existence of a system of specialized resources. These resources include obstetrics, paediatrics, the psychiatry of childhood, and most importantly, social workers, as they may require education and historical insight on all of these issues [2].

In order to raise awareness about the need of child protection, the delivery of suitable training is the key way. Additionally, professionals working in health and social care have access to a variety of risk assessment techniques and scales. However, larger organizational and cultural variables may also help or hinder people in recognizing the potential of abuse and taking necessary action. This will depend on the circumstances. The use of data and information to enhance protection is one example. Other examples include collaboration between various organizations and professional groups, particularly at the intersection of social and health care, and the utilization of other data and information [3].

The aim of this study was to explore social workers' perceptions of assessing the children who are at risk of abuse, and preventing from happening again, as well as the role of social worker in the crime of child abuse and the relation between the social service with the family and caregiver.

Review:

One of the most difficult and draining jobs in the field of human services is work that involves protecting children. As a result of the nature and organization of the work, child protection is inherently challenging. This includes a number of factors, including high work requirements, low pay,

too much caseloads, risky and unpredictable case circumstances, changing regulations and norms, emergency duties, undermanned workplaces, persistent crises, and difficult schedules for work [4]. It is common for those who work in child protection to experience anxiety when confronted with the prospect of making snap choices about complex cases, often with very little or no prior knowledge. Due to the fact that such rapid decision-making does not always result in picking the alternative that is the safest, there has been continual scrutiny from the public and the media over the matter [5]. In spite of this, it is abundantly evident that the judgments made by child protection professionals are of the utmost importance. This is because they are the initial line of protection in situations where there is a suspicion of child abuse or neglect, and they employ effective remedies in situations when there is evidence of abuse or neglect. Listening to children talk about horrific events while working in a child welfare framework that is demanding, tough, and frequently "insensitive" might possibly place a child protection professional at a higher risk of acquiring emotional and psychological issues [6]. As a result, the child protection worker may be more likely to have emotional and mental challenges.

In the field of child protection social work, the process of family involvement can involve various activities. These include starting conversations with family members to understand their perspectives on their problems and potential solutions, facilitating their participation in meetings like child protection case conferences, considering the opinions of both parents and children, and being mindful of the different methods of communication within the family, such as how information is presented and formal reports are prepared. The present advice on child protection in Scotland emphasizes the need of listening to and respecting service users. It also highlights the need to consider equality as well as diversity problems at all times [3,6].

An intellectual handicap can have an impact on both the evaluation of parental capability and the investigative procedures of social workers, according to the findings of a prior research [7] that was carried out in Sweden. The research indicates that the evaluation should be centered on the requirements of the children and the competence of the parents to fulfill those requirements, rather than the incapacity of the parents. Utilizing different modes of communication and providing assistance are two of the most important things that can help to lessen the power imbalance that exists between the social worker and the parent.

Because of the possibility of confinement and interruption of child protective services, children who are victims of abuse at home or online may be forced to suffer in silence at their own expense. Because of the fact that many adults who would normally be able to recognize signs of abuse and maltreatment (such as teachers, childcare workers, coaches, extended family members, community members, and family and child social workers) are not anymore in constant contact with children, it is likely that it will be more difficult to identify children who are at risk during the crisis.

The Social Service Facilities Act in Sweden is the piece of legislation that governs the duties that social service facilities are responsible for. As part of a more general discourse in social welfare that is centered on families, this piece of law takes into consideration the requirements of both children and their parents. One component of this strategy is collaborating with the kid's family as well as the larger network that surrounds the youngster. In addition, Sweden has reached an agreement on a national plan with the objective of providing assistance to all parents, regardless of the difficulties or dangers they face, as well as providing assistance to parents who belong to certain risk categories [7].

When children are at danger of being neglected or when their parents are unable to meet the children's support requirements, one of the primary responsibilities of social workers working in child protection agencies is to evaluate the situation and decide the type of assistance and support that is required. Therefore, determining the parent's competence to care for their kid is one of the primary goals that social workers strive to accomplish throughout investigations pertaining to child protection [8].

In the field of research, risk and safeguarding factors are defined as events such as behaviors, events, circumstances, qualities, relationships, or features that have the potential to either enhance or decrease the chance of an event or a result occurring [8]. There is a considerable relationship between the risk factors that are acquired from childhood and the potential poor consequences that occur during adolescence, according to the findings of researchers. During an examination into child protection, social workers are able to uncover both risk and protective variables in the parental capacity by conducting an investigation into how each component relates to the current circumstance. Following the completion of a comprehensive evaluation, social workers are granted the authority to evaluate whether treatments have the potential to bring about a reduction in risk factors or an increase

in protective variables in each individual instance [8].

Conclusion:

It is the determination of what is commonly referred to as parental capacity that social workers in child protection agencies make when they assess the degree to which a parent is able to provide adequate care for their kid. Previous studies conducted in the field of social work have arrived at the conclusion that evaluations of parental ability are considered to be more challenging in situations when the parents in question have cognitive impairments, such as mental illnesses or learning disorders. Users of social services and social workers alike have frequently emphasized the significance of transparent and truthful communication, information, and explanation throughout the many stages of the social work process. In a great number of instances, this has proven of essential importance in either facilitating or impeding the creation of trustworthy connections. There were several service customers who reported having difficulty comprehending what was taking place to them and the reasons behind it. When faced with such circumstances, providing an understandable response was an essential component of family participation.

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