

The Social Spectrum

FREE EDITION



ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER IN DISASTER MITIGATION

Prevention is part of the mission of the social work profession, disaster social work is concerned with intervention in the social and physical environments as a means of preventing serious long-term social health and mental health problems after disaster. The immediate social environment of individuals is often disrupted by disasters. Disaster relief programs using volunteers may seek to reconstitute these support networks to minimize disruption of social functioning and to facilitate recovery... (Contd..P/3)



The Ethical standards of the social work profession explained with real life experiences! Page . 3

The Birth Of Network Of Professional Socialworkers - India



Eureka! Exclaimed the social worker out of the blue. Finally, a solution to connecting social workers across the country, or maybe even the world, was discovered. But, there was no way this could be done by one person. What is the point of an idea without creative minds to implement it?

What could be done next? Discuss with another social worker, and another and another. Everyone had the same vision in mind - To connect Indian Social workers globally and to put us out on the international platform. It all started with a group on WhatsApp on 9th March,2016. Using the snowball technique, 1 group grew to be 5 groups. NPS-India has now connected with 1150+ social workers across India on WhatsApp alone. Who would have thought social media can be used to build a professional body? NPS-India did!

Soon we started expanding on other social media platforms like Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Support was flowing in from within and outside the country. So who is the brainchild behind NPS-India? It's hard to point out to one person because there have been random social workers who choose to be a part of this initiative. Everyone playing their part, working for one common cause beyond their daily work. Members behind team NPS-India are all regular social workers who have full time jobs of their own. NPS-India is a dream child of every one of us social workers. We have been working during lunch and sleep hours to make this dream come true. Most of us do not know each other on a personal level. Our initial meetings were through WhatsApp and Skype. NPS-India still has a long way to go, and The Social Spectrum is just one of the many initiatives that we have started. Our ultimate goal – To put Indian Social Workers on the international platform. It does not matter if we permanently remain as members of the body, all that matters is that NPS-India does not cease to exist in our absence. We want commoners to stop asking us what a social worker does. Is that even a profession? So do you go around sweeping streets and cleaning rubbish? Isn't social work a registered profession in India? We want the world to know that there are a huge number of professionals making a change, creating a better India. So join in fellow Indian Social Workers and let's make this happen.

APRIL 1ST 2016



HUMBLE STEPS HAVE REACHED MILES..



Dr. Fathima Vasanth, Former Principal of MSSW, present principal of Patrician college, Chennai has dedicated her life for teaching and transforming lives. Down to earth, soft spoken and and simple in appearance but her work speaks volumes of her achievements. (Contd. P/2)



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REAL LIFE HERO!!! Q & A with Dr.Fathima Vasanth

Dr.Fathima Vasanth, Former Principal of MSSW, present principal of Patrician college, Chennai has dedicated her life for teaching and transforming lives. Down to earth, soft spoken and simple in appearance but her work speaks volumes of her achievements.

Q.Can you share with us your Journey as a Social Work professional?

A. I started my career at Bishop Heber College in 1982 as a faculty. From 1984 till 2014 I served in Madras School of Social Work, where I was promoted as the principal in 2005 and joined patrician college as principal after my retirement. Though professionally a teacher, I am privileged to have worked with several committees as, committee member, advisor, consultant and chairman for various projects like child protection committee, disability committee, social welfare committees, TRC (Tuberculosis Research Center) and NIE (National Institute of Epidemiology), been in committees framing policy for transgender and many research committees. Been guide for M.Phil and Ph.D students and visiting professor in Atlanta, Chicgago, Texas. I have also got the opportunity to conduct training programs for various corporates, police officials etc. and helped corporates form CSR departments. And have collaborated and worked with UN, various NGOs and INGOs for projects related to women and girl child.

I continue to work even after my retirement as principal in Patrician college.

Q. What are the changes you have brought about in this field?

A. When I became the principal at MSSW, it was a college with 100 students and 7 faculties, now it has 10 departments and 10 programs with 60+ faculties.



SOCIAL CASE WORK WORD PUZZLE (answers on bottom of Page 4)



I have initiated courses like counselling psychology, BSW, development managements etc.My first priority is providing quality teaching, then research and into extension projects for all departments.

I also promote

EDP (Entrepreneur Development Program) for all students based on their weakness so that they are empowered to face

life and challenges.

Q. What do you consider as your top three achievements?

A. As a recognition for all the work Tamil Nadu government awarded me with 'Best Educationalist Award' for the year 2011, other awards like Rotary Woman Achiever Award in 2010 etc...

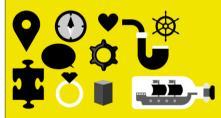
I was fortunate to prevent many suicide attempts through counselling and was able to help families have better relationships through family counselling. Then, it is the network of human resource, professional and my students that I was able to build in this 35 years of experience as teacher.

My true achievement is my balanced life, I am a professional social worker, a teacher, a mother and I run my home, doing all house hold works.

Q. What is your message to NPS?

A. We have a strong association, we must form a good bond which includes practitioners and students. We should create our identity, lets join together and make this profession big. We have to make sure that no student says that they don't have proper recognition for this job. We have to make our mark, grab the opportunities and it is all our responsibility to work towards this profession.

Interviewed by - Manikandan S Svapnil Vyas Edited by - Editorial Team Nps - India



a little bit of EVERYTHING

A School in Pimpri (Pune, India) called 'City Pride School' insists that school children drop the left over water from water bottles in drums while leaving the school. The water collected in drums are used for watering the plants in the school premises. This practice is slowly adopted in the surrounding schools of Pimpri. The water collected in these drums is about 1 lakh litre per annum. Small drops definitely do make an ocean.

Share such inspiring stories with us at editorsnps@gmail.com



ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER IN DISASTER MITIGATION

Prevention is part of the mission of the social work profession, disaster social work is concerned with intervention in the social and physical environments as a means of preventing serious long-term social health and mental health problems after disaster. The immediate social environment of individuals is often disrupted by disasters. Disaster relief programs using volunteers may seek to reconstitute these support networks to minimize disruption of social functioning and to facilitate recovery. In addition to reconstituting social support networks, restoration to pre-disaster levels of functioning depends on reconstruction of the physical environment. Volunteer programs managed by social workers also provide skills and personnel for rebuilding and for management of temporary shelters. Intervention in the physical environment represents a type of secondary prevention of further psychological problems. Prevention is mostly embodied in community disaster mitigation. Primary prevention is viewed as the most effective means of lessening traumatic events in refugee camps.

A central concern for social work is facilitating access to needed services, creating linkages between vulnerable populations and service systems, and creating linkages among service systems to make resources more accessible to people. It also includes case management, case finding, outreach, advocacy, brokering, information and referral, and helping clients apply for or qualify for services. Psychological debriefing is highly consistent with social work's orientation. Debriefing emphasizes coping mechanisms, community social support, and social connections through networking Psycho-educational teaching about typical stress responses and useful coping mechanisms provides a framework for understanding the traumatic event. Social workers volunteer during the disaster. Volunteerism has shown to increase the capacity of organizations to provide disaster services, which in turn increases an organization's geographic range of service delivery, as well as to insure that services are provided to vulnerable populations residing in isolated geographic segments of communities.

-B.Preethi Masters in Social Work student Patrician college of Arts and Science, Chennai



Helping Relationship: A Tool to.....??!!!!

Social worker in a formal setting, be it an industry, school or any kind of organization involves a lot of aspects, one of the basics is to develop, sustain and terminate a helping relationship. When it comes to this helping relationship as an Industry Social Worker and or school social worker some cases are voluntary and some involuntary.

When one works with the client in a setting of empathy, positive regard and unconditional acceptance, social workers are allowed access to a lot of private information. At this point all social workers would agree and respect the need for confidentiality because clients disclose intimate details with belief and trust that this information will not be shared without consent.

When the role of management comes into this aspect of helping relationship, sometimes the helping relationship is understood as means to get more information that is needed for administrative decisions and actions. Such an administrative model of using this helping relationship as a tool for access to private information or resulting in the need of sharing all personal information to people with whom the client is involved is totally against the code of ethics of a social worker. So it is imperative that the management that solicits the services of professional worker should understand the clear boundaries and each of their roles and limitations.

- Divya.J Asst. Professor Patrician College of Arts and Science, Chennai

THE UGLY TRUTH



Few years ago, I was doing my field work internship in a community based organization. I was sent to the field under the guidance of a professional social worker. We had met a client in the community who started sharing her personal difficulties. The social worker had patiently listened to her speak and finally told her "I told you to pray to ______ God. You are not praying to him, that is why you are suffering so much" I was beyond shocked at the response of the social worker. I as a budding professional did not expect such a vast difference between theory and practice.

Why is this not acceptable in the social work profession?

The above act by the professional social worker violates the values and ethical principles stated in the code of ethics by NASW (National Association of Social Workers), specifically:

Value: Service

Ethical Principle: Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems.

The Ugly Truth: This social worker instead focussed on personal religious interest rather than service to the client.

Value: Dignity and Worth of the Person

Ethical Principle: Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.

The Ugly Truth: Dignity and worth of the person is discarded when clients are entertained based on religious beliefs.

Value: Integrity

Ethical Principle: Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner.

The Ugly Truth: Once judgements are passed by the social worker, where is the question of integrity and trust?

The Ethical standards of the social work profession with regard to Social Workers' ethical responsibility to clients mentions about conflict of interest. It states that 'Social workers should not take unfair advantage of any professional relationship or exploit others to further their personal, religious, political, or business interests.

The Ethical standards of the social work profession with regard to Social Workers' ethical responsibilities as professionals has clearly mentioned that 'Social workers should not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, colour, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, or mental or physical disability.

So many violations with regard to the code of ethics with just one statement? And this, ladies and gentleman, is the ugly truth that many of us face.

- Lilian George, MSW, RSW-P





FEMALE SOCIAL WORKER

Paadhai needs professional female social worker willing to stay with girl children at night shelter at Chennai. Contact 9841393283

BLOCK PLACEMENT!!!

East Eden Foundation at Manapakkam is an NGO for Destitute Male Psychiatric patients. Social work student specializing in Medical and Psychiatry interested for block placement can contact: 9962526332

PART TIME OPPOURTUNITY

Collect articles related to child protection, child abuse, child labour, nutrition, health and hygiene, etc from online Tamil and English daily newspapers and mail it every day with the links, title of the article, page number and a short summary of the article in a few lines.

If interested contact: Deepak, 9789897498

STATE COORDINATOR

Wanted candidate for the position of state coordinator to work in RSEN (Reading Skills Enhancement Network) aarVam-BSAC. Salary up to Rs.25000/-. Need experience in Network and advocacy. Contact: Shanmugam, 9940173901.

Revamp psychiatric Hospital Ambattur, Chennai.

Require residential psychiatric SW, freshers preferred Accommodation & food provided. Salary negotiable Contact: npsindia@outlook.

MEDICO SOCIAL SERVICE OFFICER

Wanted Medico Social Service Officer grade 1 @ AIIMS. Last date to apply is 9th of April, 2016. For further details, contact: www.aiimsraipur.edu.in

For all queries and job openings contact us at npsindia@outlook.in



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ASK THE EXPERT!!!



Procedure to RSW in Singapore

Social Workers across the globe undergo various processes of registering themselves as full-fledged professionals. It is often a strenuous process for us foreigners, who are not prepared for all the documentation that is involved. Here, I would like to share my experience of obtaining the title of registered social worker (RSW)with the Singapore Association of Social Workers(SASW). First and foremost, you need to be in Singapore and preferably working in the field. If one has experience of less than 1 year in Singapore one needs to initially apply for RSW - Provisional accreditation. On completing one year it can be converted into RSW through another less stressful application process.

Documents required:

- 1. All social work course related certificates and mark-sheets
- this includes all semester wise mark-sheets and degree certificate
- 2. Application form for recognition of foreign Social Work Degree Programmes
- This is a 5- 10 page document that requires details of the applicant, course of study, modules covered, field work components covered, etc.
- This document should be attested by the competent authority in the respective college/university. Please note that only copies with original signatures will be accepted. Scanned copies are not accepted. Yes! That means you need to have good rapport with the authorities to get your work done from Singapore and also pay for courier charges.

This document can be obtained from the following link: http://accreditation.sasw.org.sg/jsp/mainPage/recognition.jsp

- 3. Soft copy of Passport size photograph
- 4. Passport/Work pass

Once the above mentioned documents are ready, one needs to sign into the SASW website. For a new user, you will need to submit your passport details and email-ID. A confirmation email will be sent, following which one has to log into his/her respective account and start filling out the online application form. The online form is quite simple if you have scanned copies of all the documents ready.

There will be a section which auto-generates 2 reference documents and 1 employer declaration form. These forms cannot be obtained prior to filling your details. Once it is auto-generated, signatures need to obtained from respective authorities. Following this, this copy needs to be scanned and attached. A self-declaration needs to be made online and finally the form is ready for submission.

Once the online submission of forms is done, hard copies (with original signatures) of all the documents attached should be sent to the SASW office.

The Social Work Advisory and Accreditation Board (SWAAB) sits for approval of registered social workers once every three months. So the maximum time it takes to get accredited is 3 months.

If this process is positive, the name of the applicant will be updated in the SASW accredited members register which can be checked on the website. A hard-copy of the accreditation certificate will be issued as well.

References can be made from the SASW website and the staff involved in the process are very patient and supportive in providing guidance to foreigners.

Disclaimer: This is based on an individual experience and the processes may have been updated in the course of time.

(The author is currently working in a voluntary welfare organization in Singapore. She had obtained her accreditation in Febrauary 2016)

-Lilian George, MSW, RSW Singapore

ASK THE EXPERT!!!

ASK YOUR QUIERIES TO OUR EXPERTS IN THE FIELD.

SEND IN YOUR QUESTIONS TO editorsnps@gmail.com

WITH THE SUBJECT 'ASK THE EXPERT!'



International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care

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PCVC – Identify for Women

Who we are

The International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC) came into existence as a support services organisation in the year 2001, with the key mandate of providing services to women survivors of domestic violence in partnership with the community.

What we do

-Shanthi, a crisis centre with a 24-hour crisis helpline providing phone in counselling, appointments for face to face counselling and referral services.

-Astitiva, a safe home for women survivors providing not just physical space but an opportunity for them to reassert their existence and identity.

-Uthayam, is a coordinated response project with All Women's Police stations in Chennai offering support to women approaching the police for incidents of domestic violence.

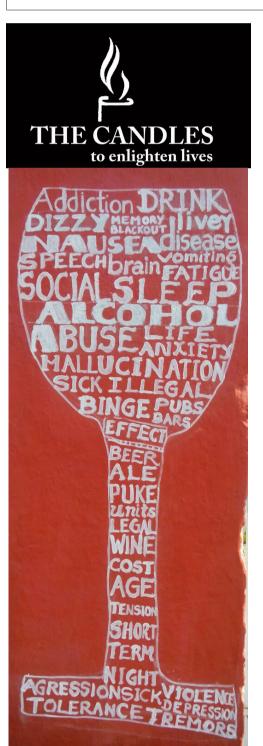
-Vidiyal, an innovation of PCVC engages intensively with women burn survivors of domestic violence. The process starts at the burn's ward at Kilpauk Medical college by providing psychosocial counselling, hygiene and nutrition services. After women are discharged from the hospital, the residential state of art recovery and healing centre provides women with the space, environment and means to rebuild their lives.

-SHARP, another initiative of PCVC, paved the way for the organisation to make a landmark entry into workplaces to address the issue of sexual harassment prevention of women at workplace.

CLAPP is PCVC's foray into prevention and effective intervention of sexual harassment in public spaces.

Crisis Helpline: +91-44 – 43111143 Contact us : pcvc2000@yahoo.com

-Surender.M



THE CANDLES - VARNAM A MAKEOVER FOR THE WALLS IN CHENNAI

Varnam' meaning colors is brightening the walls with vibrant varnams. Varnam is a flagship project of 'The Candles' an NGO working in the field of health and mental health founded by Mrs. Angelin Prince. A beautiful initiative by her and her team to beautify the city walls which has been left ignored and had been a very sore sight. Initially when approached the volunteers for the purpose of this project, some were a little hesitant saying they are no artists and they can't paint but as the project took off many of the same volunteers proudly exhibit their art.



Their volunteer team comprises not only of artists but of students and employees from various corporates and from far away districts, getting together with one goal with fun and focus, with a participative approach, white washing the walls from dusk to dawn, and creating the magic with their brushes, painting art which creates awareness of education or conservation of environment or just simple art which puts a smile on the viewers' face. A volunteer Mr.Manikandan says "The success of 'Varnam' Project is its volunteers, there are people who travel from various districts and reach the project site well before hand, sometimes even a day before, with only intention to be a part of it.

And our volunteers don't stop with just painting the walls but also do the follow up. We had painted the T.Nagar bus stand walls and the very next day one of our volunteers noticed that there were scribblings on the painted wall, so we went back again and educated the children in the school about the importance of keeping our surroundings clean and have repainted it. So our job doesn't stop with painting but regular follow up and maintenance as well." An open invitation is given on social media when a project is coming up, 20 to 30 volunteers are required per project. Angelina says that there is a good response from volunteers for every project, and support from the the community people but they also



encounter challenges when certain walls are marred with posters. They have done 8 projects so far in a short period of a year and a half, some of which are Varnam projects at CLRI Kendra Vidhyalaya, Anjugam school, Railway rail museum, T.Nagar bus stand etc.

For more details contact Angelin Prince - 9940161296 & Shiloh Annies - 8148874311

NEXT PROJECT AT OTTERI CREMATORIUM WALLS 3RD APRIL 9AM ONWARDS VOLUNTEERS REGISTER @ 9841765402



BUDS OF CHRIST

HIV/AIDS has brought in social stigma-exclusion, mental agony and ill health. This virus has succumbed scores of lives across the globe.

In India, Namakkal district had about 13,000 people including 600 children living with HIV. The district has been identified as highly prone to the disease.

BUDS OF CHRIST, a Charitable trust has been working for the children orphaned by HIV and AIDS at Tiruchengode Taluk in Namakkal district. The key service areas are captioned under **LEAL**

Health: Ensure monitoring of health, initiate support group meetings, provision of nutrition kits and medical services.

Education: Focus on empowering the orphaned in their specific area of interest by supporting the educational needs such as aiding tuition fees and provision of school needs, life skills and value education programs.

Advocacy: Keen focus is laid on ensuring non-violation of child rights at all facets of the society by creating awareness among high school students, network and liaise with the Government programs.

Leadership: Assist in molding the young beneficiaries to become future leaders of Buds of Christ and to work for their fellow peers living with HIV by organizing leadership camps, seminars and exposure to people working for other social and development sectors.

Since 2009, Buds of Christ has reached out to over 250 orphaned children living with HIV and AIDS, of which many have graduated from colleges or have been educated through diploma studies and have identified 15 young people and are periodically trained as future Buds leaders. The organization has been effectively running support groups at the Government hospitals at Namakkal, Salem and Tiruchengode.

Thus they work with a mission with children, "to love, listen, learn and lead orphan children affected by HIV and AIDS to live life positively and with dignity and be children of hope and courage to their peers and to their community."

Contact: J.Paul, Founder Director +91 9840770722 / 04288281722 Jpaul@budsofchrist.org www.budsofchrist.org



-Grace Devadoss

World storytelling Day aarVam-BSAC

The main intention behind world storytelling day is to celebrate the art of storytelling globally, to fulfil the purpose, aarVam - BSAC has celebrated "The World Storytelling Day" on 19th March, 2016. There were more than 45 children and 20 staff members who had participated in the program. The children were selected

from the reading class and the children's sangam. The program was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by, Mrs.Shara(Asia area Manager) from Asmae India, Mr.Shanmugam Director of aarVam-BSAC, Chief guest Mrs.Angelin Prince and two children and Mr.Shanmugam Director of Aarvam addressed the gathering. Mrs.Angelin Prince, Director of "The Candles" was invited as the guest of honour. She shared few words on the evolution of the world storytelling day and the way it is celebrated all over the world. Later, Children were separated in to small groups, and each group was given 4 random picture cut-outs from magazines and were asked to create their own story related to the given pictures. After few minutes of discussion each team came up with an innovative story and they narrated it to the participants. The narrated stories had different moral and social messages. The children enthusiastically participated and enjoyed the stories told by the co-participants. Later, aarVam Project coordinator Mrs.Roselin narrated a short moral story and children actively came up to narrate some more stories to the participants. Finally, the chief guest Mrs.Angelin Prince added few values to the session by giving some tips on how to narrate a story in an interesting way, she narrated a story to the children and motivated to storytelling and story making. This program triggered the creativity of children as well as they carried tons of moral learnings along with the participation certificate and Village stories















