

Practicing The Curriculum : A Case Study From Kerala



Management

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ABSTRACT

Rajagiri Family Counseling Centre (FCC) works to strengthen the social fabric of the locality by preventing families from breaking up and promoting harmony in the family, is initiated and operated by the Department of Social Work, Rajagiri college of Social Sciences, Ernakulum, Kerala. Many thousands of people are benefitting from this cell every year. The author was the coordinator of this departmental activity. This paper explains the operations and objectives of Family Counseling Centre. This paper may act as baseline document for similar initiatives across globe, especially in developing and undeveloped countries.

"At the end of the day, a loving family should find everything forgivable."

– Mark V. Olsen

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences - A bird's Eye View

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences together with its sister educational institutions, owes its existence to the CMI(Carmelites of Mary Immaculate) fathers, founded in 19th century by Blessed Chavara Kuriakose. The CMIs with their indefatigable industry, and indescribable foresight ventured into Social Work and Management Education by establishing Rajagiri College of Social Sciences in 1955. Since then they have been bold and creative enough to recast the college, in line with the times through international partnerships, taking up new areas, and by investing for facilities and skills to relentlessly maintain the level of excellence. Apart from MSW (Master of Social Work) programme the college offers PGDAHS (Post Graduate Diploma in Administration of Human Services,) BSW (Bachelor in Social Work)and Ph.D.

The college expanded its horizon by taking up social work projects by establishing different Live Labs, pioneering research by establishing an independent Research Institute, and by offering professional training to social work personnel through special purpose Training Centres. Today the activities of the live labs, training centres and research institute lend a lot of opportunities for the interns from abroad in professional enrichment and participation.

Community Aid & Sponsorship Programme (CASP) is involved in Child Sponsorship, Child Rights Issues, Community Development and Community Health Projects, Training and Consultancy.

Adoption Coordinating Agency (ACA) is involved in promoting Indian Adoptions by coordinating and supporting the adoption activities of all licensed placement agencies in Kerala state.

Rajagiri Family Counseling Centre (FCC) works to strengthen the social fabric of the locality by preventing families from breaking up and promoting harmony in the family.

Rajagiri Legal Aid Cell involves in activities including free legal aid, literacy classes and legal awareness seminars.

Childline provides 24-hour free phone emergency and outreach service for children in difficult circumstances.

Aditya- The Solar Shop promotes the use of solar devices through sales and service.

Centre for Women's Studies and Development helps in promotion, development and dissemination of knowledge, related

to the evolution of women's role in the society.

Indian Council of Social Welfare (ICSW)- Kerala State is involved in the scrutiny of inter country adoptions and guardianship applications.

RajagiriOutREACH (Rajagiri Educational Alternative and Community Health) Service Society (ROSS) is the umbrella organisation of RCDS (Rajagiri Community Development Scheme) CHCRE (Centre for Health Care Research and Education) and FDC (Free Drug Cell).

Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) is involved in inculcating entrepreneurial culture among youth and imparting training in entrepreneurship.

The Research Institute carries out independent and sponsored research projects in different areas of social sciences.

Training Division

NSS TOC (National Service Scheme Training and Orientation Centre) caters the training needs of NSS functionaries of Universities and Directorates in the State of Kerala.

MLTC (Middle Level Training Centre) trains the supervisors of the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) projects in the state.

AWTC (Anganwadi Training Centre) imparts training to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers of ICDS Projects.

Central Social Welfare Board

The Central Social Welfare Board is established in 1953. It has formulated many programmes during these years. The Family Counselling Centres programme is a flagship programme of the Board. This programme was started as intervention programme to manage the death due to dowry issues.

In Family Counselling Centres, women who are victims of atrocities, family maladjustment and marital discord are provided counseling and rehabilitative referral services. It act as a crisis intervention agency and trauma counseling in the aftermath of natural and manmade disasters. Another major objective of FCC is to create awareness in the local community and mobilize public opinion on issues affecting the status of women. FCC work in close collaboration with the local administration, police, courts, legal aid cells, medical and psychiatric institutions, vocational training centres and Short Stay Homes.

Rajagiri Family Counseling Center

Rajagiri Family Counseling Centre started its operation in October 1999 as a live lab of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences The Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi is a funding agent of

the centre. The main objective of the centre is to strengthen the social fabric of the locality by preventing families from breaking up and promoting harmony in the family. Legal counseling is also main agenda of the center. The legal counselor provides professional advice to victims of Domestic Violence and other atrocities

Major objectives of the Center

Casework & Counselling

Provided by social workers and counsellors, these services help individuals or families resolve their personal, social and emotional difficulties to cope with challenges in life. Available counselling services include marital counselling and pre-marital counselling, and counselling on behavioural problems and child management, family violence, financial difficulties, and interpersonal relationships. To make this into reality counselors are involved in creating awareness about family problem, marital problem, adolescent problem, sex education etc, providing special education to the family members with support and extra care to the client, encouraging the family to listen supportively to the person, mobilizing emotional support for the family which helps greatly in facing problems, encouraging the role responsibility and need to normalise the activities of the individual and the client and educating both client and family members as how to handle their family problems

Information & Referral

FSC staff identifies and assesses the needs of individuals or families and links them with appropriate community resources. Individuals or families can call, walk in, write or email their queries on personal or family-related issues. They can also obtain information on appropriate community resources or parenting resource materials at the FSCs.

Community Support Programmes

FSCs also conduct community support programmes to meet community needs. They could be conducted for children, youth, parents or other specific groups.

Activities

- Distribution of drugs.
- Distribution of clothes
- Counselling.
- Case Work
- Group Work.
- Rehabilitation
- Referral services.
- Campaigns on various health issues.
- Emergency services like arrangements for blood, vehicle, assistance etc.
- Care of the terminally ill.
- Training programmes for the medical and Para medical staff
- Field Work training for the Social Work students

Conclusion

Family Counseling programme emphasizes an eco-systemic approach to understanding human problems and generating solution opportunities. Students who learn to apply appropriate solutions to problems in their course work will become successful practicing professionals. The family counseling center associated with the institute help the students to learn the practical while the organization discharges its social responsibility

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