



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Social Science

ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER IN NATURAL DISASTER AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN VICTIM REHABILITATION

KEY WORDS: Social Work, Natural Disaster, Rehabilitation

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ABSTRACT

The role of social worker in the rehabilitation of natural disaster victims is very crucial as they require physical and psychological help to maintain dignified life after-crisis. Natural disaster is having a huge effect on sufferers' lives. Emotional trauma like situation can be seen as a results of loss of life, wealth, injury, and death. Working in systemic and methodological approach, Social Worker plays a significant role.

Natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, earthquakes and fires are causing circumstances in which hundreds of thousands of people each year become victims. Victims have been confirmed to have signs of posttraumatic stress disorder after natural disasters. Disabilities are widespread among victims of the disasters. Heart attacks as well as disaster-related physical injury can lead to conditions of permanent disability which require assistance to return the victim to work. Natural disasters are emergencies, and a crisis is a time-limited duration of psychological instability in victims, precipitated by a sudden and substantial shift in individual life circumstances. This shift in life circumstance may be defined by loss of home, contributing to a sense of insecurity and uncertainty in the loss of privacy and treasured belongings. Such people are forced into situations where they have to live in temporary tents, with no toilets or provisions for food, and bad living conditions. Home loss may lead to community loss and work loss, with a concomitant loss of income and support.

The injury and death associated with natural disasters imprints the mind of the victim, with that imprint taking the form of remorse for failing to do enough, or fear and anxiety. This has pointed out that denial and frustration are often disaster concomitants.

Social worker's role in disaster

Social workers define health as a condition or state in which a person is capable of using all his capacities of social life. Social work career is a powerful tool for ensuring systematic and qualitative delivery of health care to reduce the psychological and social effects of the disease on the life of the individual. It is the implementation and acceptance of the social work approach and theory in the area of health and medical care. It discusses patient's social, physical, and psychological aspects. It's focused on assuming the integrity of a person. Treatment is not the only cure for the disease. Clinical social work examines the sick person as a psychological dimension of the disease. Health social work deals with disease prevention, post patient care and patient social recovery and not just disease diagnosis. Social workers uncover a patient's social and psychological context in the health care delivery environment, free the patient from his psychological pressures, and uncover the psychological causes of the disorder.

Working concept of Social Worker aftermath of natural disaster

- a. Medical social care considers the victims' issues related to their physical and psychological climate.
- b. It is focused to support those victims who face social, physical, economic and psychological problems during their care.

Principle behind working of Social Worker in aftermath of Natural disaster

Social techniques based on humanitarian nature are followed like:

- a. By helping victims to address and solve problems of their own (strengthen their capacities)
- b. The social and psychological impact is determined
- c. By increasing the willpower and the victim's courage
- d. By helping the victim to adapt to problems
- e. By creating effective environment.

Working methods of Medical Social Worker

- 1. By Using Case study method - In this case study method, a social worker gathers information regarding the specific needs of the victim and Works towards its fulfillment according to the means available
- 2. Providing assistance directly - Medical Social worker engages directly in the help. Medical social worker strives to improve the victim's social ties and work for a safe social atmosphere.
- 3. Providing assistance indirectly
 - a. Community organization - Community resources organization by social workers regarding health
 - b. Social administration - Social worker directs the public for the implementation of new social policies or any changes in the laws in place
 - c. Social security and insurance - Encouraging the victim to use social security and insurance services by social worker
 - d. Social action - Social worker takes part in social action movements at national (involvement in the national health program) and international level (e.g.world health days)
 - e. Social work research - Social worker get motivated in conducting surveys and investigations regarding the socio-economical as well as psychological problems of the victims

Conclusion

Social worker contribution in the rehabilitation of victims of natural disasters is of immense importance and is very critical that helps with a comprehensive and holistic approach to their social and psychological recovery. Medical Social work is a very prominent and important branch of medicine for delivering comprehensive and high quality health care.

Social workers have a larger role to play in rehabilitating injury, physical, and psychological consequences related to natural disaster trauma. Quality of life and psychosocial change are vitally important to people whose quality of life has declined and the role of medical social worker to care with them is crucial.

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