

Role of Medical Social Worker: Addressing Social Issues & Social Rehabilitation

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Understanding Medical Social Work

- ▶ Medical social work: An important component of social work/medical services counselling, guidance and alike.
- ▶ Medical social workers are engaged in /outpatient clinics and community health services.
- ▶ Medical social workers are useful for preventive services, but play important role in rehabilitative and curative services as well.
- ▶ Trauma care, counselling, referral services etc. are significantly dealt by the medical social workers:
- ▶ From family to hospital to community - the role of medical social workers is significant !

Palliative Health Care

- ▶ Palliative care mean a very specialize medical care for people living with a serious illness (Cancer)
- ▶ Palliative care involves services that address the pains of the patients and the pain includes physical, psychological, emotional and others
- ▶ The patients needing palliative health care require physical support like dressing, washing, going for toilets etc. A person particularly, the attendant of the concerned patient has to be attentive to respond the needs or calls of the patients.

Role of Medical Social Workers in Palliative Care

- ▶ Counselling for the patients and the family
- ▶ Trauma management
- ▶ Referral services
- ▶ Ensuring treatment support
- ▶ Creating basic awareness in the Community

Critical Skill Sets required for a Medical Social Worker/Volunteer

- ▶ Empathy
- ▶ Mutual Respect
- ▶ Listening
- ▶ Technical knowledge and expertise
- ▶ Interpersonal communication skills
- ▶ Continuous learning
- ▶ Teamwork and collaboration
- ▶ Assessment and evaluation

Social issues and social rehabilitation

- ▶ Address Social stigma and social ostracism at community level
- ▶ Community Campaigns and Awareness building on critical health issues through youth, women, elderly & community institutions (AW, GKS, MAS, RKS) and PRI institutions etc.
- ▶ Ensuring preventive, restorative, supportive and palliative rehabilitation

Thanks