

ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS FOR PROTECTING REFUGEES RIGHT

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Abstract

From a broad perspective, social workers are responsible for the basic needs of refugees, making sure they have food, water, shelter, etc. However, in addition to ensuring the physical needs of refugees are met, social workers also play an essential role in immigrant and refugee communities by reporting issues such as employer exploitation, domestic violence, sex crimes, and child abuse to social service and law enforcement agencies. They act as mediators for individuals who are hesitant to report offenses due to fear of deportation. Finally, as advocates, social workers play a role in standing up for immigrants who are the victims of anti-immigrant policies and discriminatory practices. A social worker is a professional who helps individuals and families improve their quality of life by ensuring access to basic needs such as food, shelter and safety. They work to achieve better lives for their clients by analyzing the environment, relationships, systems and policies that impact their clients' lives. Common challenges that social workers must help their clients overcome include poverty, abuse, unemployment, mental illness, addiction and trauma. Social workers meet with clients and build relationships based on trust and compassion. They identify the issues their clients are facing and implement solutions such as physical relocation, therapy, coordinating medical treatment and assisting with employment. At the end of February 2018, the public was overwhelmed by mass media coverage of a large number of refugees living on the streets in front of the Immigration Office in Jakara. Their existence needs to be noticed by the government in particular and all parties in general, This paper explores available integrative literature, quantitative document analysis, and presents mixed methodology through individual interviews and an exploratory study to analyze social workers' role to respond the various issues faced by today's refugees.

Introduction

Social workers have the unique opportunity to serve as allies to those seeking safety and asylum. From basic physical needs to legal protection, social workers are able to assist in these unique and challenging transitions. These efforts, however, are met with added difficulty when combined with every other moving part of the refugee resettlement process. While social workers are able to assist in many areas of resettlement, this does not eliminate the involvement of others. Subsequently, maintaining communication and collaboration becomes essential to the refugee resettlement process. Social workers can be employed in a range of areas. While all social workers strive to help people, each type of social worker focuses on a specific area of need. Common types of social work include:

Man by nature is adventurous and loves to move out of his domain to settle in other people's land if only doing so will promote or improve his socio-cultural, political and economic wellbeing status or success. The reality of life for the refugees and internally displaced persons begins with camp experiences when and where they are clustered together in large numbers under thatched roof or roof made of mats or tarpaulin or at times under the trees with very unkempt environments unhealthy shallow latrines, poor hygiene, inadequate food causing malnutrition and poor health conditions. In most cases these refugees live in constant fear due to lack of insecurity as even the security officials who are detailed to guard the periphery of the camps are most often seen inside the camps unleashing terror, harassing, intimidating and exploiting the refugees with impunity. Again, some of the camp officials divert relief materials meant for the refugees and exploit the refugees women by way of rape and threaten refugee children with threats and constant fear. On a general note refugees as a result of horrific situations and lack in the camps are victim of emotional and psychological trauma which not only weigh them down but also affects their physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing. In some countries there are no specific legal framework and guidelines in the provision of specific services for specific persons like the physically challenged refugees, children and women refugees and the vulnerable. These refugees lack adequate professional services provision as only very few social workers with requisite skills, knowledge and experience of counselling, advocacy and human behaviours are employed to work in the camps thereby creating such gap hard to be filled by other professionals working with the refugees.

Research objectives

Children and their families who are struggling with social or psychological issues in school.

The social worker assists by providing coping mechanisms, counseling and medical referrals to the patient and their family.

Social worker provides resources and improves the social justice environment of a particular neighborhood, town or city.

Result and Discussion

1. Child, family and school: Children and their families who are struggling with social or psychological issues in school, at home or in their communities may seek the help of a specialized social worker. The social worker is responsible for assessing the suitability of the educational, home and neighborhood environment for the child and their parents. They work with the family and school staff to resolve the problem. Child and family social workers place children in foster care when required, monitor their well-being and assist adults with the process of adopting or becoming foster parents. This type of social worker can be employed by schools, government entities and foster care agencies.

2. Medical and public health: Individuals who are dealing with health issues or chronic illness can work with a medical social worker to assist in navigating their medical issues. The social worker assists by providing coping mechanisms, counseling and medical referrals to the patient and their family. They also help patients navigate public resources, including Medicare and

Medicaid, and coordinate their many health care services. A public health social worker strives to limit the spread of diseases and helps communities overcome widespread illnesses and disasters. Medical social workers work for hospitals, government agencies and health care providers.

3. Mental health and substance abuse: These social workers coordinate and provide therapy, rehabilitation programs and counseling to addicts and patients with mental health challenges. They help find affordable rehab centers and connect patients with an appropriate counseling program based on their challenges. This type of social worker also handles outreach and preventative programs to locate individuals in need and provide timely care. Mental health and substance abuse social workers may be employed by hospitals, residential treatment facilities, community organizations and government agencies.

4. Community: A community social worker provides resources and improves the social justice environment of a particular neighborhood, town or city. They work with a large group of community members, instead of one on one with clients. Community social workers focus on organizing and developing social programs to improve the quality of life in their area. They are typically employed by local government agencies.

5. Military: Service members and their families face unique challenges transitioning into, during and after their military service and can seek the assistance of a military social worker who understands their needs. These social workers assess the well-being of service members, identify post-traumatic stress disorder or other mental health challenges and recommend a treatment plan. They also help families cope with their relative's deployment or injuries from serving. Military social workers are most commonly employed by the government for a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces but can work in the private sector for health centers that frequently serve the military.

Role of social workers concerning the refugees

A primary focus of social work for immigrants and refugees is the identification and management of the social and emotional issues inherent in adapting to resettlement. The tools necessary for helping immigrants and refugees nationally also provides a good foundation for social workers to help refugees abroad. They become qualified for international humanitarian work in under-served and high-need villages and countries.

Professionals in the human services field specify that refugees and asylum seekers need long-term recovery mental health interventions such as family counselling, individual or group therapy, and learning relaxation techniques (Boisvert, 2006). By providing these basic needs, especially in the areas of safety, health care, education, food, and most importantly the provision of psychosocial support, their overall well-being might be improved enormously (Kim, Torbay, & Lawry, 2007).

As social workers are definitely seeing these asylum seekers and refugees is part of a social being that also has the role and social function in personal life. They have own problems that disrupt their social functioning. These refugees are usually confused in identifying the needs

and problems faced with too much. Therefore, social workers help them to be able to determine which problems and needs are priorities.

In this context, social workers need to improve the capacities to handle and to care for all refugees and asylum seeker including unaccompanied minors. Social work as a profession has much to offer in services for them. Social workers can absolutely respond to the complex needs of them within an understanding of the broader context of the social welfare system and dynamics of interconnected relationship.

Social workers who specialize in working with communities and individuals of refugees, asylum seekers, or even UAM can alleviate some of these challenges by offering support, counseling and advocacy for connecting them to valuable resources.

For example, one of the common issues is about the client's status. In this case, social workers may collaborate with legal professionals. Their role tend to include gathering important documents, writing detailed reports that can support their client's case, and serving as a primary contact and advocacy to law enforcement officials.

Social workers may also work with newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers by facilitating the moving process to their new surroundings. This may include supporting clients through social services, job placement assistances, language courses, cultural orientations, and so on.

Also, for those who escaped hostile environments or have experienced traumatic events in their home country may need specialized counseling. Social workers may offer therapy and trauma healing which can help them to recover and move forward with their lives.

The values of social work, acknowledging the principles of both social justice and the dignity of human being, likewise to pay more attention to the importance of ensuring that responses to successful social functioning. The concept of social functioning is a tool for understanding the unique focus of social work through the process of change and distinguishing social work from the other related professions.

The successful social functioning is a person's ability to accomplish those tasks in many situational context and to fulfill his or her basic needs, such as having food, shelter, and medical care. Along with being able to protect oneself from harm, finding healthy relationship and social support, having meaning and purpose in life, and also enable to perform his or her major social roles in their community. (NASW, 1999).

Trends in global migration and current patterns of settlement tend to be complicated, dynamic, and reflect different characteristics related to the histories of the countries as well as more recent geopolitical and economic pressures (Castles, 2000). In Indonesia, the situation is very political and the authority is left entirely to the destination country or related parties to take care of them. In this case, social workers begin to become a facilitator for them to provide information, give understanding regarding the problem, explore their potential, and work together to find solutions.

Conclusion

Social workers are seeing refugees and asylum seekers are part of a social being that also has the role and social function in personal life. They have problems which disrupt their social activities. These refugees and asylum seekers are usually confused in identifying the needs and difficulties. Therefore, social worker plays a crucial role in helping the asylum seekers and refugees to uphold and protect their rights to get freedom of movement, housing, education, justice, lawful employment, integrating into their host communities, and so forth.

This paper is a form of encouragement and support social workers policy frameworks to participate in promoting recognition and encouraging the legal framework of refugee protection by ratifying the 1951 Refugee Convention with one of the Indonesian State Philosophy “Pancasila” that upholds the fair and civilized values of humanity.

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