

Medical Social Work in India

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ABSTRACT: *Social work, as an expert domain of social sciences, offers with the systematic remedy and solution of psycho-social issues of people, businesses and network. Social work has its roots in society to cope with social troubles. As a result, it's miles inclined to attain major objectives; the formation of such a surroundings which assists in creating an extra satiating device of residing and the advent of welfare structures which help the people and community to live more creatively and effectively. Social work thrives within health care settings globally and is a substantial field of practice especially in India. The Medical Social Worker is a psychological well-being proficient who helps families and people in a medicinal services setting. They could work in a network center, nursing home, clinic or hospice setting helping customers in managing the enthusiastic strains of the medicinal services process. The errand of the Clinical Social Worker is to assist individuals with managing the passionate disturbance that can happen from the mind boggling procedure of present day human services. Regardless of whether this is helping the customer access network and government assets, encouraging care groups for groups of the withering or direct individual advising, the clinical Social Worker assumes an assortment of jobs in the human services process. This paper examines the Medical Social Workers roles, duties and responsibilities working in India. It also highlight fields of practice, services and activities performed by Medical social worker. This will expand the ability of a clinical social specialist for serving the patient in an effective manner.*

Keywords:- *Medical Social Work, India*

1. INTRODUCTION

As an expert domain of social sciences, social work offers with the systematic remedy and solution of psycho-social problems with people, businesses, and network. Social work has its roots in society to deal with social troubles. As a result, it's miles inclined to achieve major objectives; the formation of such a surroundings which assists in creating an additional satiating device of residing and therefore the advent of welfare structures which help the people and community to measure more creatively and effectively. Social work thrives within health care settings globally and may be a substantial field of practice especially in India (Beddoe, 2017).

Health social work is additionally strongly represented within the research literature, covering a variety of practice areas, like primary and public health, hospital social work, and palliative care. While recognized as an important stream of the social work profession, hospital or medical social work practice varies by country, region, and urban/rural location due to diverse health care laws and policies, standards, and funding systems (Winnett, 2019). Health social work also features a long history. From the earliest work of hospital almoners within the UK, it subsequently spread to other British Commonwealth countries, like America, Australia, and India (Guite, 2019). However, interventions and scope of practice vary widely between countries within their 'uniquely localized environments' (Winnett, 2019).

India is one country that features a long history of delivering a western model of social work, despite being shaped by enormous structural challenges, including its largely impoverished population of 1.3 billion people (World Health Organisation, 2016). India has achieved remarkable social and economic progress within the seven decades since Independence. There has been significant progress in health indicators, as seen in declining infant and under-five mortality rates, maternal mortality ratios (Kumar, Bothra, & Mairembam, 2016), and increases in anticipation (World Health Organisation, 2016). This has been made possible through effective penetration of health care services across the country, extensive public health campaigns, and enhanced coverage of state and personal health care facilities (Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, 2018). Despite these improvements, India continues to possess one among the very best disease burdens within the world (Guite, 2019), with 61% of the entire disease burden now attributed to communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases (Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, 2018). Although social indices have also shown progress over the years, issues like child labor, psychological state issues, and violence against women remain pervasive (Kumar et al., 2016). Dr. Clifford Manshardt an American missionary in 1936 started formal training in social work in India through Dorabji Tata grad school of social work. The primary medical caseworker was appointed in 1946 in J.J. Hospital, Bombay and within the 1960s scope of medical social workers increased in India.

Social work as a profession in Australia developed later than the united kingdom or America with the primary professional social workers being hired within the 1920s (Camilleri, 2005) from the USA. Social work training began in Australia in 1940 at the University of Sydney. The profession took direction from the established schools in England until the 1960s when a more American model took hold. Most high-level training and theory were imported from abroad until the 1980s. Some Australian social work writers like Jim Ife have criticized the impact that this has had on Australians having the ability to develop culturally appropriate theories and practices (Camilleri, 2005). Since the 1990s, Australian social work has increasingly affiliated itself with Pacific Islander and New Zealand approaches.

The rapid changes in India's socioeconomic and political conditions from the 1920s required the event of formal training programs in social work. These programs focused on "urban problems of commercial workers and targeting planning and organizing services enabling people to deal with their economic hardship" (Dash, 2017). The first social work curriculum was strongly influenced by an American model of social work education in India through the appointment of a team of social workers to act as

consultants to colleges of social work. Consequently, the western philosophy of social work emerged because the dominant approach to social work curriculum but has subsequently been criticized for being unresponsive to India's social and cultural context (Dash, 2017). Although there are calls to summarize their knowledge domain, curriculum content continues to supply traditional approaches, like casework, group work, human development courses, and specializations in medical and psychiatric social work (Singh, Gumz, & Crawley, 2011).

Medical social work in India

In India, the clinical conditions affect far greater than the frame. They might end in an onslaught of psychological, financial, and societal needs. Different groups of experts from medical settings are adept at supporting people to satisfy those sorts of needs then we discover social work employees in many places wherein healthcare offerings are popularized. It's going to be mentioned as scientific and healthcare workers. They function as case managers, navigators of affected persons, and also within the clinical setting, they're worked as therapists.

a. Origin of Medical social work in India

Dr. Clifford Manshardt an American missionary in 1936 began formal schooling in social work in India via Dorabji, Faculty of social work in Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Here was the primary clinical caseworker appointed in J.J. clinic, Bombay in 1946. The scope of clinical social workers accelerated in India in its 1960s and therefore the largest percentage of healthcare social workers works in hospital settings. An increasing number of healthcare social workers are operating in outpatient healthcare settings or nursing/rehabilitation centers.

In this historical past, now it's miles suitable to be particular and address the role of medical caseworker pertaining to social work career and its various aspects in order that it can provide statistics about social workers during a very scientific manner. However, an effort has been made to tell about right matters within the Indian context.

b. Fields of Practice for Medical Social Workers

A caseworker during a scientific manner works in areas of care management and assists patients and families in know-how affected person situations and solutions for his or her problems. Health care social workers can assist patients and family contributors increase coping strategies, verify patient wishes, assist within the development of remedy plans, and supply emotional and mental assessments on the one that is affected with problems. Clinical Social workers can also offer bereavement counseling, help with persons having problems also discharge, and affect the association of in-domestic care offerings. The medical social workers are often employed in hospitals, hospices, lengthy-time period care facilities, partial hospitalization centers, nursing homes, health departments and assisted living centers. a rise within the old population and enhancements in healthcare treatments and offerings are most of the chief components to the present projected task boom rate.

Medical social workers are at the speed of finishing administrative medical tasks whilst presenting excellent consumer interactions and doing a superb effort in solving the issues . On the opposite hand, they're in charge of interviewing patients by recording each matter regarding their problem and also make loved ones form better clinical

records. They perform the preliminary contact and full history screening before the diagnosis and testing. It's also helpful for creating proper referrals and collecting the info regarding the matter. Here, after collecting the info they are also responsible to report the small print to the multidisciplinary team and also attend and file their development to other scientific experts within the institution.

An image of social workers as a middle-class group employed to assist a little number of people affected with psycho-social issues, instead of providing services to marginalized sections of society in rural areas where nearly three-quarters of the population reside (Baikady, Pulla, & Channaveer, 2014; Botcha, 2012; Chhokar, 2010; Dash, 2017; George & Krishnakumar, 2014). Further, the bulk of institutions are self-funded, private institutions charging excessive fees (Baikady et al., 2014). This often excludes less affluent students who may have a real interest in social work, but who lack necessary financial means (Botcha, 2012; Chhokar, 2010; George & Krishnakumar, 2014). Most of the time, medical social workers provide effective social, emotional, economical, and clinical advice while required for the diagnosis. That specialize in their duties and responsibilities, it's considered one among their main responsibilities is to properly refer clients to qualified experts and different professionals on a traditional basis. Moreover, they need to line up transportation options for patients to and from each appointment. Additionally there to Medical social workers are facilitators and educators in assist institutions, offer counseling recommendations, and assist integrate talents into normal life. They administer new programs and attend a gaggle of 'workers' conferences. They have to respect affected person confidentiality with the help of following neighborhood, nation, and federal mandates. Clinical social workers often sell health care projects and screen participation, also as percentage important statistics with people to enhance provider reliability. They supply important records to customers, cautiously explain alternatives in treatment, and answer technical questions when feasible at work. Also the social workers within the medical setting act as a liaison among the medical body of workers and patients. Medical social workers need to be proficient with using simple laptop and e-mail software programs, and that they should own robust interpersonal abilities and it are often helpful for the patients to satisfy immediate requirements of monetary assistance and social needs.

c. c. Educational Qualification

Most programs offer a three-year Bachelor's degree also as a qualifying Masters. In 2004, schools of social work in India developed minimum standards for social work education on behalf of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The standards promoted values of human dignity, human rights, challenging of unequal relationships, and empowerment of individuals to create capacity to advocate for basic rights (Nadkarni & Sinha, 2016). However, these standards weren't adopted universally, leading to diverse curriculums and ranging educational quality across schools for both Bachelors and Masters levels (Baikady et al., 2014). In recent years, there are concerted efforts by various international social work professional and regulatory bodies to draft and implement comprehensive ethics guidelines, standards, and education. However, the social work profession in India "has lagged behind developments in many other nations" (Reamer & Nimmagadda, 2017, p. 182), has less scholarly literature, and fewer ethics-related protocols, standards, and conceptual frameworks to guide professional practice. The new set of worldwide Standards for the

Education and Training of the social work Profession (2004) developed by the International Association for college of social work in consultation with the International Federation for Social Workers, the 2 prominent organizations within the field of social work provides guidelines for social work education and its practices everywhere the world.

d. Licensing and Certification

In the case of Medical social workers, they're constantly licensed. Here in India, master's level social work employees are licensed whether or not they're in medical exercise. Many nations gave a civil right to people for licenses in social work practice. The worth of including social workers within hospital multidisciplinary teams was recognized as early as 1946, and therefore the first trained medical caseworker was appointed in Bombay (now Mumbai) within the same year (Acharya, 2018; Guite, 2019). Today, health social work continues to be the foremost popular specialization among social work students (Guite, 2019). In most of the country's will mean that bachelor's in social work program graduates can get jobs using skills and techniques that they had been taught of their classes and their fieldwork experiences. Moreover, each state has the duty of deciding the titles specialists can use and therefore the scope of practice they're allowed in each setting. within the case of a Licensed caseworker (LSW) doesn't constantly mean an equal component when one crosses kingdom lines. While assessing the information, it's realized that from time to time it signifies grasp's degree practice.

e. Duties and Responsibilities

*Provide Support to patients: Guite (2019) expanded on this description and listed the roles of the 51 social workers employed at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Roles included multidisciplinary teamwork, management of monetary assistance, casework and counseling, transplant coordination, and rehabilitation. Within the case of patients' satisfaction about the entire treatment, the medical caseworker is in charge of handling numerous obligations as how to supply a pleasing carrier to patients. during this situation, in need of review journals, books, articles, and also several activity listings and discovered the next a number of the middle clinical Social workers duties and obligations in India. In contrast, Acharya (2018) reported on a study that indicated a really different reality, albeit acknowledging significant practice variations from State to State. within the study, it had been largely poor people that received services from the govt hospital social services department, within the sort of assistance to access medicines. Other services, like psychological support, were 'negligible', and where psychological support was delivered, it had been not adequate for patient welfare. The study showed that 25.7% of service recipients were between 41 and 50 years aged, while only 5.7% of recipients were 61 to 70 years aged. About 22.9% of service recipients were illiterate, and medical social workers saw more men than women. The most function of a scientific caseworker is to assist sufferers recognize, affect and treat their circumstances. To the present situation, clinical Social workers will recommend sufferers about their infection or disorder, participate in treatment plan development, found out for in-home care employees, and help to schedule follow-up

visits. they'll additionally make sure plans that patients are adhering to treatment plan and medical recommendations

*Educate and counsel families: it's miles even as essential to supply aid to families of sufferers, and clinical Social workers are involved in assisting families to apprehend the circumstance that a patient has been identified with and supply counseling to reduce pressure and deal with the requirements of the patient. Clinical Social workers will help altogether choice-making approaches pertaining to the care of the affected person and make referrals as wanted. Additionally, they provide grief counseling offerings to families. Reamer and Nimmagadda (2017) describe several ethical dilemmas which resonate with examples reported by participants. This includes, for instance , the cultural importance of families being consulted before patients, which is at odds with social work principles of self-determination, autonomy, and consent. Further, many Indian social workers instinctively offer advice, contrary to the western practice principle of listening and following client wishes

*Assist in obtaining various health care services: A Medical caseworker is generally worried about helping patients work with medical insurance organizations, network health organizations, transportation services, and economic assistance programs. They'll help to make a decision what advantages patients are eligible for and assist in filling out vital paperwork , which incorporates medical insurance forms.

Different obligations and responsibilities of scientific social work in India are:- Coordinate affected person interactions from patient care, discharge commands, comply with-as very much like aftercare facts, they have to barter with payers, outreach, family, and third birthday celebration agencies to safeguard patients. one among the important positions is to talk with patients and rehabilitation or care packages to make sure appropriate moves are taken and ultimately they have to behavior psycho-social reviews and endorse clinicians on social work topics.

f. Salary and Career Outlook

Clinical social workers can work favorite in hospitals, hospices, partial hospitalization centers, day centers, and nursing homes. Some medical social workers concentrate on different disciplines in positive regions, inclusive of oncology, trauma, or pediatrics. Salaries for clinical social employees depend on their credentials, whether or not they're certified and years of experience. The typical earnings for medical social work people with an MSW in India are ₹296,609.

g. Supervision and Practice Requirements

After completing graduation, medical social workers can practice below board-accredited supervision. Additionally the necessities range, but a candidate can calculate to try to a minimum of two years of complete-time add hospitals or other related disciplines. It is actually before receiving the upper credential in practicing social work theories. In India, the identical holds proper for non-clinical master's social work employees. In some states they are appointing the social workers who are for baccalaureate social workers to finish board approved supervision; people are often given a lesser name till they end their training.

Some medical social work people are very specialized in several disciplines for

instance within the different department the caseworker that serves simplest sufferers expecting transplants or babies receiving neonatal care and that they whilst others can also serve a bigger sort of clients with ongoing scientific issues. So that, Medical social work employees frequently collaborate with other clinical experts which incorporates doctors, nurses, other dietitian teams, discharge coordinators, administrative workforce, extensional project officers, and physical therapists as a neighborhood of an interdisciplinary group. This dual focus is particularly relevant for Indian social workers, who face significant sociocultural and economic constraints to alleviate problems with poverty, discrimination, and access to basic health look after the advantage of individuals and communities (Reamer & Nimmagadda, 2017).

h. Role of Medical Social Workers and Services Provision

About medical social work practice requirements all states have adopted Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) licensing examinations. There are 4 ranges: bachelor's, master's, scientific, and also in advanced generalist. But, some states use all the above mentioned ranges and requiring the master's exam on the onset of practice and therefore the medical or advanced generalist after supervision requirements are entire. However, some require best one examination for getting selected as a medical caseworker .

Social work education in India has experienced quite one realities given within the helping process of people, groups and communities in their cultural, geographical, physical, social, ethnic and linguistic differences. The core value of this situates social work schooling into a weird yet challenging milieu in its adventure to form certain well-being for citizenry and helping them to assist themselves. Moreover, this type of venture comes from the very fact that social work practice in India can longer contributed enough to expand in its idea and practice. Contextualizing the social work curriculum to the present social reality with evidence based totally exercise may be a mission and has not severely been haunted . Here differently is to focusing the task which before Indian Social workers acknowledged is that the way instructional applications and therefore the curriculum is organized. In Family targeted medical social work intervention, social work in rural areas and facilitating transport of welfare offerings become not a priority in social work for decade.

2. CONCLUSION

Clinical Social Workers offer a special and significant commitment in giving fitting and focused on administrations to satisfy the complex psycho-social needs of patients, their family and professions in emergency clinics. Emergency clinic social workers offer direct sorts of assistance expecting to limit the consequences of sickness and hospitalization when a person's well-being is suffering from complex social, mental, family and institutional elements. In like manner, the calling of clinical social work has an faraway from within the continuum of emergency clinic services. In India, the Professional Social Workers are prepared to perceive and help with the psycho-social needs of patients and their families. They need the knowledge and skills required to assist patients and their families with passionate, handy, and managerial issues in several ways. They will encourage individual and gathering advising and guarantee that customers are alluded to proper administrations. The family level information and mindfulness consistently have both positive even as negative impact on the patient with a

disease. The correspondence in any structure is usually significant for creating change within the general public and it requires changing the matter from diversion to instruction for appropriate social improvements. The character of the matter in clinical social workers will have an impact of improving the private satisfaction. The Medical Social Workers within the nation can choose network intercessions which will lessen issues related with relatives and condition and medical social workers are there to supply passionate and right down to earth backing to patients even as their relatives through individual and family advising and support.

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