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Social work practices in the field of old age

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the social work practices in the field of old age; even before ageing became a challenge to society, it already was for social work professionals. What concerned the social work practice were the older people who accumulate low incomes, poverty, loneliness, isolation, disease and several outbuildings. The increasing number of older and much older people reconfigured the social work practice in this area. This practice is in accordance with the field of elderly needs, natural and irreversible life process, In case of India the age, theories and Role of social worker with elderly care of social development oriented to social cohesion. The professionals are now responsible for older people in the field of practices. This article is going to discuss about the social work practices in the field of old age.

Keywords: Social worker, old age, field, social work practice

Introduction

Assessment is an essential aspect of all social work practices. Whatever the settings, problem area or population, social workers begin their intervention with an assessment of client problems. The goal of the assessment is gathering, synthesizing and evaluating pertinent information to design an appropriate and effective intervention strategy. As a social worker specific attention needed for special population, such as the aged, needs to be addressed separately. With the burgeoning growth of aged population and the demand for social workers were increased.

Social work practice in the field of elderly needs to be understood with in a contemporary cultural and historical context. An expending knowledge base, changing technologies, and increasingly complex human and social concerns affect practice. As the proportion and the world population increases, so, too, does the demand for geriatric services. Demographic changes have been so far reaching that the emerging social, economic, and demographic realities have shaken the very foundations of existing patterns regarding the elderly. As a result of changes in the age composition and the associated political, economic, and social transformations, there is renewed interest in how people age how gerontologists view the ageing process.

Ageing is a natural and irreversible life process. Like every other period in the life span, old age is characterized by certain physical and psychological changes on the individual, determines to a large extent, whether he will make good or poor personal and social adjustments. The old age is characterized by both physical and mental decline, is slow, know as senescence. The characteristics of old age, however, are likely to lead to poor adjustments than to good ones and to unhappiness rather than happiness.

In case of India the age: Wave is mounting. Urban India and south are growing fast. Life expectancy has short up. With one elderly 12, India is the second largest global hub of senior. There are 8 million aged over 80, 29 million above 60. In urban areas, 64% elderly women and 46%men are fully dependent for food, clothing and health care on others. About 2% do not have any one to take care f them. The number of aged, ailing and in require of concern is above 27 million. Over 70% elders are fully dependent. 30% of seniors seek medical help of some sort. Lives are busy and women are working. This generation is less inclined or able to care for parent.

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Role theory suggests that the ease with which individuals adjust to ageing depends on how they adapt to the role changes experienced during later life. Activity theory holds that older people who maintain active roles characteristic of middle age will be more satisfied than the less active older people. While disengagement theory contends that withdrawal from such active role is conducive both to the aged and the society. Continuity theory on the other hand emphasizes on the continuity of roles, personality and relationships in the later life.

In a lot of respects, the family of the functional- age model of intergenerational therapy corresponding the chronological growth of social work and its double task to advance communal situation and to improve the social implementation along with folks, families, and groups. Older adults are mostly likely brought to the attention of a service agency because of factors that interface with activities of daily living. It is not the particular disease of old age but the effect of these condition on mental and physical functioning that affect the older adults performance of certain daily tasks. However, such a term luxury few social workers have: consequently, geriatric practitioners must be knowledgeable in all the area related to the client's functioning. The core of the functional age. Functional age comprises four basic spheres related to adaptation capacity: The biological, Psychological, socio cultural, and spiritual.

Biological ageing

Biological elderly senescence similar to decline of creature appropriate aged and occasionally practical ageing refers to natural actions phenomenon crosswise occasion which more and more damage the physiological system so that the life form becomes fewer able to stay sickness, at last rowing its susceptibility to decease. Shape this sight, the elderly course stem beginning quite a few physiological factors, and is customized during the life way by ecological factors like food, experience of disease, hereditary factors and life phase.

Psychological ageing

Psychological age refers to how a person has adapted over time. Consider, it is necessary for social workers to obtain a total record. Without it, social workers cannot fully understand the affective or emotional aspect of an elderly clients potential for growth and change.

Social ageing

Social ageing refers to the altering experience to person resolve approach in their role and associations with other group and as member of broader communal structure similar to religious assembly as they exceed in different part of their time. Separately beginning the exceeding mention type of elderly, according to (Vigue, 2006) are clarify as average ageing and accelerated elderly follow.

Spiritual age

May include a person's relationship with his or her faith/ religious community and or an inner system of beliefs, discovering what contributes to a person's ability to transcend the immediate situation and find meaning in seemingly meaningless events.

Role of social worker with elderly care Social work with aged focuses on the maintenance and growth of presentation and of distinction of living. Through the focus on elderly

care and the capacity to believe the difficulty involved from different perspective, social workers suggest a exceptional and precious role in this pasture by provided that suitable and besieged army to meet the multidimensional desires of elderly and their families. Social work assessment and intervention are not only huge support to the customer, but executive capacity of other professional. Therefore, social workers are frequently occupied in multidisciplinary care teams, especially when interventions are impacted by emotional, family and institutional dynamics.

- Social work in elderly care is a huge area of concern in these days in India. During perception, social workers execution with aged populations middle on the protection and improvement of expressive and common completion. This is paralleled with a holistic and related understanding of a client's perform, a compulsion to strength of mind, confidence and regard.
- When inhabitant is initial admitted to an-elderly, a social worker will perform a psychosocial estimation to decide the plane of care necessary and to assess detailed army, such as psychiatric intervention.
- Social workers in elderly strength are accountable for organizational responsibilities such as maintaining case records, reviewing action strategy, participate in staff meetings and seminars, and causal to excellence pledge meetings.
- Social workers role is to enhance health and happiness of elderly. And to ensure practical and suitable support systems are in position, busy and utilize to their occupied scope. This includes supporting elderly, and in a few cases their families, to construct important existence decision based on most excellent elderly care related in order to wealth accessible.
- Amid these the Central Government has since 1992 been implement its included Program me for elderly, which aims to give elderly with necessary amenities such as shelter, food, medical care and pleasure chance.

Social workers of the twenty-first century will increasingly need to use mutual aid and prevention strategies such as health promotion, diseases prevention, and self-health care programmes. Mutual aid is a form of help that relies on family, friends, and social support systems. Prevention encompasses a range of activities along a continuum of functional capacity from the most capacity to the least capacity. Primary prevention involves strategies that are needed when person is facing severe challenges to his or her life function. Secondary prevention is an attempt to forestall the lessening of functional capacity. Territory prevention is designed for people who need to maintain or regain function. Prevention embodies the social work principle of basing the level of care on the individual's functional capacity from those who are most independent to those who are least independent because a person bio psych social and spiritual functioning strongly influences his or her ability to live independently, an evaluation of a Clients competence to Manage daily affairs is central to geriatric social work practices. As social workers assess a client's mutually decide what services are best delivered.

Older people should access to wide range of social work interventions it is also important to recognize that less-values intervention such as case management, discharge planning providing long term support, also involve high-level skills on the part of social work practitioners. Like

other professionals, social workers are not immune to some negative representation. It is notable that aged care settings are still frequently cited by:

- Social work students as their least preferred sites practice. And human services students.
- Social work demonstrates only low to moderate level of interest in working with older people in the future.

Attitude towards older people also tend to be less than positive, and to reflect societal images of older people as inactive, unhealthy, inflexible and complaining. These highlights the importance of social workers with older people challenging limited representations of old age, and enabling older people to draw on their strength and capacities. In a US study, identified the 77 percent of social workers graduates not employed in an aged care role had contact with older people, and 63% reported that they needed gerontology knowledge in their work.

If individuals are left unsupported in establishing and making choices, because of an adherence to liberal values which unrealistically ignore the complexities of financial markets and quality control. For older people, making effective, successful ageing, according to Rowe and Kahn, involves three major behaviors:

- Avoiding disease and disability, referring to a prevention orientation.
- Engaging with life, encompassing the need for social ties: and
- Maintaining high cognitive and physical function including promoting and increasing self-efficacy

As concluding, the importance of life course in understanding older people and ageing is widely acknowledged with in the field of elderly. Specifically, a life course perspective is presented as a multidisciplinary approach a convergence of thinking in sociology and psychology about processes at both macro-micro social level of analysis. Some of the key features of this perspective include recognition.

- Ageing is a dynamic life long process.
- Ageing is shaped by biological, psychological. Social, Political and cultural process.
- People's experiences across their life are affected by social, environmental and historical a change.
- Changes in patterns of ageing can produce social change.

Eldercare in our country is a patchwork of housing and health services that includes short-term rehabilitation facilities, intermediate and skilled care, assisted living, small board-and-care homes, home-health services, adult care, and continuing-care retirement communities offering a spectrum of options. Social work with older people is an exciting, challenging and rewarding area of practice. It requires high-level skills on the part of social work practitioners, as well as detailed knowledge of the issues affective older people lives and their engagement with health and human services. Sometimes social work with older people may focus on the practical or administrative aspects of the work to the exclusion of the emotional and social dimension of older people in a wide range of social work methods, such as social action, family therapy, relationship counseling, trauma counseling. In this scenario, it will not be

appropriate for social workers to provide all the support or services required.

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