

CHAPTER - VIII
SUGGESTION AND SOCIAL WORK
INTERVENTION

Chapter Eight

Suggestion & Social Work Intervention

There is a great stigma attached to this disease. Therefore they are often rejected by the society and even by the relatives. Sometimes we hear of cases where the AIDS widow along with her children is thrown out by her in laws. Most of them have very little income to support themselves. In light of the findings of the present study, it suggested ways and means for the betterment for people living with HIV/AIDS.

To be most effective, efforts to promote women's economic security embrace a range of options. This includes microfinance, vocational training, formal and informal education (such as literacy programs) legal rights training and income generating activities. Microfinance – a tool to provide women with alternative sources of credit and access to small a loan to start a business or microenterprise- is a successful means to promote and support HIV prevention.

Provide financial and technical support to assist national government in strengthening and enforcing their legal policy framework and the community outreach and education programs needed to effectively implement these policies- so that the rights of women and girls to own and inherit property and to access credit are protected.

Efforts must be taken to focus on the care and support through well framed women inclusive policies and programmes to create a supportive environment, enabling both to undertake prevention and cope better with the epidemic.

Effective Information, education and communication activities should be carried on out the community level and in the workplace. This shall lead to the decrease in the level of stigma, discrimination and denial rates. The community should be made aware of the issues related

to HIV/AIDS. This can lead to decrease in level of stigma, discrimination and denial experienced by people living with HIV/AIDS.

A sanitization programme targeting not only the family and community but also medical professional other medical staff and the staff of social service organizations should be organized to reduce the stigma attached to the illness thus reducing the level of discrimination faced by women with HIV. This would ensure in higher rate of accessibility of these services by widows.

There is a need for changing the attitude and perception of the policy makers' administrators' health educators etc, so that they may be able to give new face to the whole issue, so that they can empower the people with proper knowledge awareness and attitude, so that they will be able to adapt such kind of behaviour and knowledge which can protect them from becoming prey to the anti human virus in future.

Intervention among widows living with HIV/AIDS

They need to be better educated about their rights as patients and about how to get help to challenge the discrimination and stigmatization they face in different setting. They need legal education and access to the justice system to address the violation of their rights in the context of employment and education.

Need Rehabilitation and self support schemes for widows and abandoned women.

Respondents reported side effects after taking ART. ART can cause side effects or drug toxicity and hence lead to non adherence to drug regime and drops outs from ART treatment. It is important to monitor patients on ART and manage the side effects and sensitize the patient on drug adherence

Young widows whose families have been affected by AIDS could be involved in HIV and AIDS education and related activities and possibly

given some incentives. They can also be assisted with information on how to live positively with AIDS within the community, and instructed how to make wills.

The young widows program can be organized among HIV positive widows to help combat stigma and mitigate the impact of HIV among young. It may provide legal and psychological support, including paralegal assistance and will writing workshops and runs support groups, all helping to empower widows to protect their property, inheritance and other legal rights.

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Increase support at national and community level offering microfinance , vocational and skills training, literacy, income generation, protection of property and heritance rights and legal assistance to women and girls so that these programs can be scaled up and better integrate HIV education and services into their work.

Develop appropriate care programme for affected and infected children.

Strengthen existing NGOs to provide comprehensive and integrated services to address the varied needs of people with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers.

Since Children's emotional and cognitive experiences are known to be significant aspects of their lives, having implications for their lives overall development. It is important to conduct in depth inquiries into children's emotional and cognitive experiences. Further, avenues for the rehabilitation of AIDS children need to be explored. Enforcing laws

against discrimination is still a challenge. For the laws to work, women living with HIV/AIDS must be informed of their rights. Women need to be educated so that they are able to challenge the discrimination, stigma and denial that they meet in society. Human rights instruments (notably international conventions, treaties, covenants and national legislation) and other monitoring mechanism can enforce the rights of people living with AIDS and provide a means of mitigating the worst effects of discrimination and stigma.

Protection of children of the HIV/AIDS affected parents through Child care centre. Encourage to continue education of children through innovative schemes like community schools, waiver of school fees, special scholarships, special tuitions, mainstreaming may be a way out and make children independent as they grow.

Mass media such as radio, TV, print and the Internet can unintentionally promote stigma but they can also be powerful tools to help reduce it. Given their potential to shape attitudes, values and perceptions of large numbers of people communicators have an important role to create clear messages about HIV/AIDS and gender inequalities and to do so in a non-stigmatizing and non-judgmental manner.

Stigma and Discrimination:

Enforcing Laws against discrimination is still a challenge. For the Laws to work, women living with HIV/AIDS must be informed of their rights. Human rights instruments (notably international conventions, treaties, covenants and national legislation) and other monitoring mechanisms can enforce the rights of people living with AIDS and provide a means of mitigating the worst effects of discrimination and stigma.

Building the capacity and confidence of people living with AIDS is key in the fight against stigma and discrimination. While working to

improve the legal and customary instruments can be effective and are crucial to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, increasing the confidence of people living with this disease will help to minimize the fear, silence and denial associated with the illness and ultimately reduce the impact of the disease.

For Manipur context;

In Manipur, though the state government does not legalize sex tourism and does not permit the opening up of brothels, there is ever increasing number of prostitutes in the state. A great number of women select trade in order to survive their family members and the numbers of HIV infected women among them is also very high. Hence, the outcome proves that the existing liberalization policy has brought about a negative impact on the Income generating capacity of women causing high degree of discrimination on them and such policy helps in the degradation of the status of women in Manipur. In short it is suggested that the experience in the era of reform of liberation has clearly demonstrated that neither the processes of growth can go very far without incurring high costs of system maintenance nor can they succeed in meeting the basic objectives of the economic management, namely, to provide secured and adequate means of livelihood to the people.

Research needs-there is a need to document good research as well as support research for generating knowledge.

SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION

The role of the social worker is to make inquiries on the degree of the AIDS problem in the area and then study the problem in detail. This study will help the social worker to view the problem as a whole.

The social worker must then identify the available resources from the community and mobilize them. It is said that prevention is better than cure, and HIV/AIDS is such a condition that requires a large

amount of awareness especially in India where sexuality is viewed as a taboo:

A Channel for communication and Discussion

One of the roles of social worker is to open the channels for communication and foster discussions about HIV and interpersonal relations. Addressing HIV/AIDS through different programmes can have an enormous impact on the society at risk.

A tool for creating a knowledge base for HIV/AIDS related services

The collaborative efforts of the NGOs, State organizations, service providers have brought to the lime light the availability and source of beneficial services like counseling, testing and condom provisions, treatment and social care. The role of the social workers in each of these important areas of work is immense. The broadcasters and print media have a specific role to play as their efforts have tremendous recall value. For instance, The Kaiser Family foundation in partnership with media companies have promoted dedicated toll-free hotlines and has launched websites for educating the people about the HIV/AIDS. Creating such a socially active network for the cause of HIV/AIDS is something social workers can do.

Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS messages

Even within the media, the broadcasters are mainstreaming the HIV issue across a number of programs, ensuring that the message permeates a diverse range of output, not just outlets and public service messages dedicated specifically to the issue. The fact that virus affects all sections of the society is reinforced in such a way that many people who might not pay attention to a traditional AIDS campaign or who do not choose to watch AIDS programming, are exposed to HIV/AIDS messages. A coordinated, multifaceted campaign has greater impact than a single programme. Documentaries, News Items, concerts, public service

announcements, competitions, hotlines, books and websites can be linked together to reinforce awareness, information and messages about HIV related attitude and behavior. The social worker can play a very pivotal role in doing this linking of various campaigns.

Putting HIV/AIDS on the agenda and encouraging leaders to participate

In recent years several leading personalities from around the world have found innovative ways to draw attention to the epidemic. The more the leaders see about HIV in news the greater the resource they invest in anti-AIDS strategies, which in turn leads to increased media coverage of the issue and helps to sustain public awareness which again has an impact on leaders' priorities.

Capacity Building of Service Providers

Successful partnerships with organizations working for the HIV/AIDS affected in order to build the capacities of the service providers will go a long way in making the treatment and rehabilitation of the victims easier. Service providers with healthy attitude towards the patients will be effective in the delivery of their services. Providing such training to them should be a priority for the social workers.

Social work as an institution of collaborative efforts

The social workers can render yeoman' services in providing accurate and correct news coverage of HIV/AIDS by eliciting and generating public response to state sponsored efforts. Such efforts have the potentials to awaken social and political leaders to review their strategies and take mid course corrections in regard to policy concerning AIDS/HIV.

In such a process, the social work profession has the potential to influence public opinion and attitudes about HIV/AIDS, including attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS. An analysis of media

coverage and public opinion over several decades concluded that there is a strong relationship between them. When the media, thorough social work efforts focuses on a particular issue, there is a higher degree of public awareness and support to tackle that issue. Attitudes affect how people respond to HIV/AIDS and how people with HIV/AIDS are treated or cared for by their peers, employers, families, communities, the health care system and the justice dispensing system.

Involving political leadership in intervention

The social workers need to involve the political system of the country. So there will be more flexibility in the law making process of the country. Laws must be made in view of the situation of the country and by all means protect the basic human rights of those affected by the disease.