

Youth and Social Work

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Abstract

Youth is a time period in which we can find the agents of change. The nation and/or government are unable to get a lot of young people involved. India continues to suffer from poverty, unemployment, corruption, suicide, and other socioeconomic issues because the country is not making use of its youth. Although youth are usually mentioned in policies, the policies have always been about the youth, not about them. Many initiatives and programs that the state or government creates without consulting young people may not be beneficial for the kids of this generation. Therefore, government and policy makers ought to involve young people in creating their own plans, policies, and programs. The government needs to promote young growth more financially, educationally, and technically.

Keywords: Youth, India, Government

1.0 Introduction :

Youngsters are the agents of change, but sadly, political parties mislead, abuse, and marginalize them in the eyes of decision-makers. The nation and/or government are unable to get a lot of young people involved. India continues to suffer from poverty, unemployment, corruption, suicide, and other socioeconomic issues because the country is not making use of its youth. Although youth are usually mentioned in policies, the policies have always been about the youth, not about them. Many initiatives and programs that the state or government creates without consulting young people may not be beneficial for the kids of this generation. Therefore, government and policy makers ought to involve young people in creating their own plans, policies, and programs. The government needs to promote young growth more financially, educationally, and technically. Due to a lack of employment prospects, youth are the group that either helps their country advance or lags behind; they may engage in violent and socially damaging activities as a result (Nandgiri). For a country to develop, its kids must have a healthy development. It is imperative to prioritize the holistic development of young people.

1.1 Characteristics of Youth

Youth is a difficult group to describe since they have the power to alter the course of the nation regardless of the age range they fall under. It is true that during adolescence, a period of fast growth and change, all young people require assistance, direction, and chances. They can build self-confidence and a prosperous, healthy existence with this help. However, they could be the reason for the collapse of the nation if they do not receive the right direction, opportunities, and assistance. These days, there are countless examples of young people involved in criminal activity, alcoholics, and drug addicts. These occur as a result of their complete lack of support, improper coaching, and opportunities to showcase their abilities.

Young people are constantly looking to give back to their families, communities, and country. They are constantly inspired to conduct good deeds for the nation. Young people always want to grow and expect greater opportunities, resources, and other things. The youth's unpredictability and fearlessness inspire them to be vibrant and beneficial to the country.

Youth is always referred to as the backbone of a country. In 2003, the former President of the World Bank, James D. Wolfensohn, said, "By 2015, three billion people will be under the age of twenty-five." Therefore, we can say that the youth are the future leaders of a country, the future professionals of the country, the future worker for the country and also the essential human resource of a country. Countries that have less youth face difficulties to increase their pace of development because they lack human resources. Young people are risk takers.

According to the Inter-American Development Bank (2009), "the aspirations of young people are to create stable democracies, sustainably managed economies and a society founded on justice and fairness." This statement also shows that the aspirations of youth are always to make a positive change in society, where everyone has equal opportunities to express their ideas, equal opportunities to earn and spend money. Their ideology differs from that of the older generations; it is democratic. Young people want freedom from the social evils that prevent development.

1.2 Challenges and problems faced by the Youth

The grand challenges that social work professionals face include a wide variety of issues, from health care and income disparities to family violence, social isolation, and more. Understanding each of these grand challenges is essential for social workers who want to use evidence-based interventions to solve society's greatest problems.

1. Make sure that every child grows up healthy

As per a 2022 report from Emotional well-being roughly 15% of youth encountered a new significant burdensome episode. Sadly, more than 60% of these young people are not receiving treatment for mental health issues. Substance abuse is likewise on the ascent, with generally 4% of youth encountering a substance use jumble in the previous year. Social workers can help families find prevention programs that can better support mental health and child development through family-focused interventions.

2. Close the Health Gap

When families have limited access to health care and are also dealing with discrimination, poverty and living in dangerous environments, the odds of contracting an illness increase drastically. According to a recent report from the National Center for Health Statistics, 29.7% of Indian didn't have health insurance in 2020. However, with evidence-based social strategies, social workers can help bridge the health care gap and provide effective solutions to families and others in need.

3. Stop Family Violence

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 20 people are abused by their spouse or intimate partner every minute, equating to more than 10 million abuse victims every year. This violence doesn't only threaten the well-being of its victims but also costs billions in spending for criminal justice. Social, family-focused interventions can help individuals identify abuse early on and prevent it from happening in the future. Like most of the other grand challenges of social work, the key to stopping family violence is to be proactive rather than reactive.

4. Progress Long and Productive Lives

According to the Administration for Community Living, the Indian aged 65 and older will grow dramatically over the next few decades, reaching 94.7 million by 2060. As the population of old.. This puts more pressure on health and social services, which makes it critical for social workers to develop interventions for helping the elderly and promoting greater overall health in aging populations.

5. Eradicate Social Isolation to

Social isolation is far more dangerous than many would expect. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), social isolation has been linked to increased risk of premature death, heart disease and stroke. By educating the public about strategies to promote social interaction, social workers can help isolated individuals improve their overall mental, physical and spiritual health.

6. End Homelessness

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there were approximately 580,466 homeless individual. Over 70,000 of them were veterans and unaccompanied youths. Homelessness can negatively impact individual health in multiple ways, and the effects are often long-lasting. By developing new service innovations and technologies and creating new policies to ensure affordable housing, social workers can help reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness.

7. Create Social response to a Changing Environment

Climate change and urban development have had an adverse impact on population health. According to The Nature Conservancy, the impacts of climate change strain agricultural systems and contribute to an increase in severe weather events such as storms, floods and wildfires. Helping conserve and protect the Earth is perhaps the biggest of the grand challenges of social work. However, by developing transformative social initiatives that engage communities to take charge, society as a whole can improve.

8. Harness Technology for Social Good

As in many other fields, technology has the power to transform social work, allowing professionals to target their efforts for maximum efficacy. By utilizing technology in creative ways such as applications designed for case planning, setting up treatment plans and organizing assessments — social workers can provide proper assistance to individuals and communities in need.

9. Eliminate Racism

Racial inequality rears its ugly head in a myriad of ways, such as through racist policies, racial bias and discriminatory practices such as redlining. Social work has made considerable progress in the fight for equality and civil rights. To truly eliminate racism, social work must help develop a model that identifies hard evidence and employs practice-based interventions.

10. Support Smart Decarceration

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, there were more than 1.8 million incarcerated people in 2020. The churn of jailed individuals (the number of times people are booked into a facility in a year) is skyrocketing at an alarming rate. By developing evidence-based solutions, social workers can promote smart “decarceration” — the act of removing individuals from institutions — and find effective ways to decrease the number of individuals going to prison, while offering sufficient solutions for overall public safety.

11. Reduce great Economic Inequality

Extreme economic inequality impacts the overall health and well-being of less fortunate families and individuals in need. By developing innovative ways to address tax and wage differences among the elite

and the impoverished, extreme economic inequality can be reduced. This can help struggling families and individuals across the nation.

12. Build financial ability for all

A recent report from Lending Club (April 2022) revealed that 61% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. By adopting new policies that support income generation and decrease economic hardship, social workers can more effectively serve those who are struggling financially.

13. Achieve Equal Opportunity and Justice

Prejudice is a barrier that negatively impacts access to education and employment opportunities. By confronting racism, stereotypes and other injustices, the opportunities for everyone to advance in society increase.

1.3 Role of social worker to motivate the youth

To develop the youth or to motivate the youth on community development and nation building social worker should use all methods of social work (Social Case Work, Social Group work, Community organization method, social welfare method, social Action method and social work research).

The social worker should focus on youth development programs to develop nation. According to Youth Development Strategies Inc. (2000), what is Youth Development? “Youth Development is a process of human growth through adolescent move from being taken care of to taken care of themselves and others, an approach where rule, funding, and programming are directed at providing supporters to young people as they build their capacities and strengths to meet their personal and social needs; and a set of practices that adults use to provide youth with the types of relationship and experiences needed to fuel healthy development.” According to this definition social worker should understand the youth and social workers should work on to build capacities and strengths to fulfil the individual as well as social desire of youth.

Social workers also should work to promote the social, emotional, spiritual and mental well-being of youth. deficient these, youth cannot work and think properly. Social worker also should focus on generating opportunities for youth development as well as opportunity to express themselves. Youth are not getting too much opportunity to express themselves and in the context of developing state youth should work under the elders and there they do not get chance to use creativity, they cannot use their potential. So, social worker should provide opportunity to the youth to express and show their potentiality.

Youth are not getting chance to participate in politics, planning, policy making and etc. so social worker should conduct programs and activities to pressurize the authorized sector to provide opportunity for youth to participate in all parts of government and decision-making status.

Social worker should not work on youth but they should work with youth. As a social worker, worker should not feel that they are working for developing the youth capacity but they are working to enhance the potential capacity which all youth have but that may be hidden because they may not get chance to express those hidden potentiality. To enhance the potential capacity of youth social worker should focus on practical knowledge as well as skills where they can use those creativity, skills, and potentialities. Social worker should minimize the activities and knowledge which only gives theoretical aspects.

As everyone have their inherent worth and dignity the same way youth also has. As just social worker works with youth it does not mean that youth know nothing, social worker should respect the opinion

and skills of the youth. Even so many things social worker does not know, youth can teach them so many things, so social worker should have ability to accept the uniqueness of individuals.

Besides these, social worker should be able to connect youth with their communities and nation. Nowadays youth are dreaming about western countries and they always want to go abroad. But as a social worker we should convince them that they are the nation builder, without them the nation is nothing. Whatever they can do in western countries same can be done here. Social worker should be able make them feel that how much they are needed and useful for their own communities and nation.

The social worker should ways research and survey to find-out the needs of youth and the necessities of youth for development and then they should formulate programs which are really relevant with youth.

1.4 Conclusion:

All youths are leader. Some youth may not know how to lead. Social worker should build the self esteem of youth and should give training on leadership to increase and enhance their leadership. Social worker themselves might be the role model for youth to make them think about the nation/society development. No any sustainable development is possible if youth are not interested or if youth do not take leadership. Last but not the least, a social worker should pressurize the government to take responsibility of youth and make youth accountable and responsible for country.

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