

THE ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION
AND CRISES RESPONSE

BY

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OUTLINE

- Social workers
- Police
- NGO.s
- Counsellors
- Medical personnel

The Role of Social Workers

- Design programmes for awareness creation
- Solicit for slots in public programmes
- Target specific groups and communities
- Documentation
- Referral – police, hospital, counsellor,
- Follow up cases – with the police, court.

The Role of the Police

- Take every report seriously including cases of attempted abuse.
- Investigate reported cases.
- Prosecute – Do not accept bribe and encourage out of court settlement. Let the court decide the case.
- Do not ridicule, rather show empathy when interviewing victims.
- Only trained officers should handle CSA cases.
- Accept doctor's report as authentic evidence of abuse.
- Protect the victim's dignity - avoid identity-publicity.

Cont.

- Documentation
- Refer victims to the hospital, counsellor.
- Network or co-operate with the ministry and other agencies.
- Organise trainings for staff on CSA handling
- Make victims to feel safe with you
- Assure them of their safety as regards the abuser's threats.

The Role of NGO.s

- Design programmes for awareness creation. With or without funding. NGO.s are about sacrifice.
- Report every case to the police
- Provide psychological support or refer to a counsellor
- Refer severe cases of trauma to a psychiatrist. Know your professional limitations.

Cont.

- Parents or guardians of minors on self-referral should be engaged.
- Take the medical treatment of victims seriously.
- You may need to offer residential rehabilitation in some cases but ensure that you have the permission of the relevant government agencies in order to avoid legal complications.
- Document cases of CSA.

The Role of School Counsellors

- Provide information – seminars, assembly talks, etc.
- Be observant of students' behaviours
- Identify students with high risk level and provide guidance on how to avoid abuse, eg domestic servants,
- Engage the school authority in cases of CSA.
- Engage parents of victims with the consent of the authority.

Cont.

- Counsel victims – Counselling of a victim should not be a one shot activity but a continuous one because emotional healing is a gradual process. Also, for counselling to be effective, the basic principles such as positive regard, unconditional positive regard, empathy, congruence and confidentiality must be observed.

The Role of the Medical Personnel

- Thorough examination of the victim
- Detailed documentation of findings as the report may be needed by the police.
- Prevent pregnancy and STD.s especially HIV/AIDS.
- Encourage victim to report to the police.
- Refer victim to a counsellor
- Refer cases of severe trauma to a psychiatrist

THANK YOU