

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