

Iranian Constitution and the Role of Social Work in Health Care System

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In Iran, the Ministry of Health is defined by the constitution therefore it's responsible for health care tasks and social workers are also one part of this ministry. In the constitution the Ministry of Health has been defined: For optimal use and coordination of medical facilities and extended to provide health care, education and medical research the 29th principle express: "The entitlement to social security and retirement, unemployment, old age, disability, orphans, accidents and the need for health services, medical care, insurance and etc are the public rights of citizens and it's the government duty to provide these services with public finance and profits from the participation of local people to support every citizen's needs". For each part of the duties of the ministry of health policy and action plan has been approved by the Council. Among the tasks formulated and approved for social work as well as a few tips that are mentioned briefly (Administrative Affairs and Employment, 1995)

1. Planning in order to identify issues and constraints created by the families of patients and how to deal with it.
2. Participate in medical teams and provide information on issues and problems that can be effective in making decisions
3. Coordinated in collaboration with the medical team in order to improve the patient and the medical team cooperation with social worker.
4. Emphasis on group work with patients who are hospitalized for long time.
5. Support after discharge.
6. Social services at home (Home care)
7. Professional practice of social workers (social workers working with cancer patients, AIDS patients, etc.).
8. Follow Legal Affairs patients.
9. Investigate and solve the health problems of patients admitted to care centers.

10. Get introduced to guide patients admitted for medical and paramedical clinics and other medical institutions.
11. Collect and evaluate cost-free discount applied to the unit's social worker and the amount of discount centers ministry, as well as for follow-up funding from the Ministry of Health and assign it to the centers.
12. Cooperation in the form of in-service training courses to improve the quality of social work.
13. Gathering statistics and information on the activities of social workers and medical centers to examine and evaluate the activities and reflection related authorities.
14. Cooperation in the field of practical training (internship) for students of social work.
15. Cooperation and provide social services or send social workers to help victims of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters.

The objectives in the field of healthcare in general is the specific mode and influenced policy, attitudes, ideologies, values and scholars in this field. But the concept of social work intervention aims to improve the social functioning of the health care so the goals and roles of social work will become clearer below:

1. Evaluation of stress on psychological, social, emotional and physical environment for patients and their families may encounter and provide assistance to them directly.
2. Play the role of counselor, advocate, liaison, mediation and helping patients to make optimal use of health care programs.
3. Providing health care programs, including prevention programs and improving the quality of life in a way that is applicable and accessible to all patients and members of the community.
4. Human and social support programs for the benefit of needy patients.
5. Create interaction and communication between health care personnel and patients treated with the positive cooperation between them is obtained.
6. Participation and correct analysis of health policy and planning (member of making macro policy committee).
7. Leadership programs in the areas of participation and patient education.

8. Management and evaluation of how to provide health services to the poor through research.
9. Changing health care services from service center to need center and the combination of the two.
10. Working with the mentally ill, frail and their families and assess their needs.
11. Identify the main causes of mental illnesses and other diseases with providing community based rehabilitation.