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PRESENTERS

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**The role of social workers in addressing
GBV cases in Arusha region. Challenges
and Opportunities**

Background

- Every individual in a society aspire to live a healthy, tolerant, safe, inclusive and fair life.
- Social work services have an essential contribution in ensuring the above needs are met.
- Social work education have many challenges
- Local needs are met with the efforts of educators, field practitioners and social work trainees.
- Social workers have adopted various ways to resolve issues of an individual, groups & communities.

including, advocacy, case management, establishment of local committees, one stop centre in addressing GBV issues

- In addition, Tanzania has been a signatory to various local, regional & international human rights instruments that target GBV issues
 - i) convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW)
 - ii) Beijing Platform of Action (Equal rights)
 - iii) SADC declaration on gender and development

- African charter of human and peoples rights of 1991
- MKUKUTA that target key gender issue
- Millennium development goals
- However, with such an efforts the expected outcomes has been in question due to persistent GBV cases across the country. Eg in 2020 40% women aged 15-49 experienced physical violence.

- 17% women experienced sexual violence in their life time
- In 2020, 27.9% of girls have experienced sexual violence before 18th birthday while in 2010 only 20% of girls experience sexual violence.
- 75% of boys and girls had experienced physical violence at the age of 18.

- This study aim at assessing the role of social workers in addressing GBV cases in Arusha.
A case of Longido, Meru and Arusha city.

Methods employed

- Descriptive qualitative case study with the following instruments
 - i) In depth interview-key informants working in health care facilities and social workers.
 - ii) FGD
 - iii) Document review-reports (NGOs & Legal documents)
- Thematic analysis was used to analyze this data.

Results

- Study found the following results
 - Sexual violence, forced marriages, early marriages, GM & Sodomy
 - Denial/neglect of resources or opportunities
 - Physical violence
 - Psychological/emotional violence

Results

- Study also revealed that social workers played various roles including
 - i. Psychosocial support to GBV survivors
 - ii. Advocacy: community sensitization(prevention & intervention)
 - iii) GBV screening
 - iv) Referrals/linkage
 - v) Security to GBV survival

challenges

Despite of all initiatives there are still some challenges faced by social workers. These include

- Reporting: GBV survivals and their families treat GBV reporting as shame
- Fear of stigma
- Awareness of GBV cases is still low.
- Definition of GBV cases is ambiguous.
- Lack of resources(budget to escort GBV survivals)

challenges

- Lack of cooperation
- Corruption/accountability, policy, court
- Need training to clinical officers about screening and PF3 form filling
- Feedback from one stop centre (Sometimes no feedback)
- Cultural barriers-acceptance of GBV existence

Opportunities

- ❖ More training on GBV policies and guidelines, to social workers, health workers and police gender desk
- ❖ Improve quality of care for GBV survivors
- ❖ Access to justice for survivors should be increased
- ❖ Increasing Advocacy
- ❖ Cooperation between social workers, health practitioners and local community on issues of GBV.

Conclusion

- Mass education on the causes and effects of GBV
- Community engagement is highly needed.
- Police confidentiality on the person who reports the GBV cases is highly recommended.
- Health facilities need to have enough instruments for forensic evidence for GBV survivors to enable other legal procedures to take place.

Thank you for listening