
The Role of a Social Worker in The Prevention of Jigger Infestation Among Children in County, Kenya

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Abstract

Social workers are key professionals in assessing social care needs and providing psychosocial support. Nonetheless, the needs for jigger infestation containment and control are not well managed. Tungiasis is both a social and public health concern worldwide. It affects the quality of life through localization in the foot causing walking difficulties that reduce the normality of the infested child. Both social and psychological problems such as low self-esteem and anxiety have been identified among the children infested with jiggers. The purpose of this study therefore, was to investigate the role of a social worker in the prevention of jigger infestation among children in Kisii County. The study utilized a descriptive survey design. The sample consisted of 50 pupils, 50 parents, 20 Key Informants and 20 practising Social workers. The findings of the study reveal that to mitigate Tungiasis, the risk factors that contribute to their spread such as poverty, poor hygiene conditions, area sanitization, inadequate health facilities, sharing of space with domesticated animals, political negligence and controlled number of children in the area should be addressed. Social work practitioners should engage with children to assess challenges affecting their social functioning, process information in ways that enhance their ability to maintain good hygiene, develop skills to curb tungiasis and create support for change. The study recommends a change of behaviour in the community and the superstitions' perception of the cause of Tungiasis.

Key Words: Tungiasis, Social worker, Psychological problem, Stigma, Low self-esteem.

