

00265 **Medical Social Workers (MSW) Working in a Specialised Women's and Children's Setting: Our Training Needs Assessment**

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Aims: Previous in-house training for Medical Social Work (MSW) department, KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) was conducted on an ad hoc basis to meet specific needs. Hence, a training needs assessment was an essential step in the design and development of an effective workplace instructional training program. The purpose of this study was to examine MSWs' perceptions of their confidence and their training needs according to our local National Social workers Competency Framework. This study also examined MSWs' perceived aids for effective learning in the department.

Methodology: 28 MSWs participated and answered a questionnaire that covered seven primary areas: casework; group work; community work; clinical supervision; research and programme evaluation; ethics, values and legislation; environmental system and social policies. Respondents were required to indicate their perceived level of confidence in all the items within the seven primary areas and their needs for training. Higher scores indicate greater confidence and greater need for training. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the sample population; correlational analyses were used to investigate the relationships between MSWs perceived confidence levels and training needs.

Result: The findings show that MSWs with more working experience had significantly higher levels of confidence in their abilities for five primary areas: years of experience was not correlated with confidence levels regarding group work ($r=0.17$, ns) and research and programme evaluation ($r=0.34$, ns). Less experienced MSWs perceived to have greater need for casework training, particularly in the area of risk assessment and health-related issues. More experienced MSWs expressed greater need for expanding their theoretical knowledge base and research-related skills.

Conclusion: The findings of this study are important as they provide evidence of the type of training needed by MSWs with different level of working experiences.