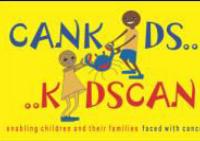


BUILDING CAPACITY: A PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY TRAINING (PROGRAM FOR A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM)

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..... an initiative of Cankids Pediatric Psycho-oncology Program

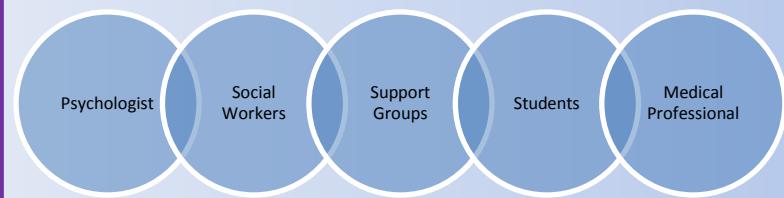


STATEMENT OF NEED

Psycho-oncology now has a recognized role through clinical care, research, and training. In a low economic country, there are limited resources and high demands for professionals to minimise the emotional and psychological distress experienced by a child having cancer. The development of the professionals suffers due to financial constraints. And being a support group organization, our work requires professional knowledge but the development of the professionals suffers due to financial constraints especially in a country like India.

METHODS

Cankids has recognized this gap and to overcome these constraints, we have initiated a "Low cost Training model in Psycho-oncology ". It is an ongoing training program for multidisciplinary team of beneficiaries:



METHODOLOGY

Didactic lectures : Videos : Role-play Exercises : Group & Field Training
Focus is on Counseling at different stages of cancer, Group and Supportive Therapies, Child Life, Palliative & Bereavement Care, Research, Program Management and Implementation. This kind of specialization lead to more competent Psychologists, Social Support Team and other stakeholders in the Psycho-oncology field and is proven to be a cost effective way to ensure the quality and effectiveness of our emotional & psychological support services. It enhances their self confidence; knowledge and attitudes which helps them functioning better and reducing job-related stress and burnout.

Target group:

Medical professionals, Scientists, Researchers & Treating Centres committed to Social Support, Outreach, and Treatment Supportive Care.

Social Support Organizations, Educational Institutions

Interested individuals, philanthropists and Donors.



- Psycho-oncologists
- Pediatric Oncologists
- Psychiatrists, Psychologists
- Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS)
- Alternate Therapists
- Management Trainers
- Researchers and other experts.



RESULTS

This kind of specialization in psycho-oncology is creating a new generation of psychologists and Multidisciplinary Team with competency in understanding coping skills, communication, counseling guidelines and learning management skills . This kind of ongoing training has enhanced the Multi Disciplinary Team's' ability to access and manage common psycho-social problems thus improving their knowledge, and attitudes regarding care of children having cancer.

These trainings are proven to be a cost effective way to ensure the quality and effectiveness of our emotional support services.

Primary outcomes included self confidence; knowledge and attitudes which helped them function better.

As a secondary outcome there is a significant reduction of job-related stress and burnout in the Multidisciplinary Team.

CONCLUSION

This psycho-oncology training program has significantly improved the confidence and knowledge regarding care for patients with psycho-social problems hence the children and their families can get better psychological support. In centers with better resources available, one important objective for the near future is to work on further more, enabling access to scientific knowledge and educational resources that are available through communications technologies is a useful tool for providing information to those in less well-funded academic and research settings. Thus, the future goal of Psycho-oncology Training Program includes developing a full-fledged Psycho-oncology course accredited by a University, strengthen research and clinical work as well as improve access to psychosocial knowledge and services worldwide.

Upcoming

A preconference day on "Pediatric Psycho-oncology", PHOSSCON, A part of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Conference 2016(PHOCON), November 3rd Mumbai, India

Achievements :

Workshop on Palliative Care Counseling and Bereavement Support, January 6th 2015, Kolkata, India

Workshop on Child Life Competencies June 29th -30th ,2013, New Delhi, India

Counseling & Emotional Support in Pediatric Palliative Care July 15th & 16th,2011, New Delhi, India

Psychological Support and principles of Communication, May 19th ,2010, New Delhi India

Child Life Workshop: Child Life Competencies July 23rd -25th , 2010, New Delhi, India

Pediatric Palliative Care Counseling Workshop December 14th – 15th ,2010, New Delhi ,India

Pediatric Palliative Care Workshop November 6th -8th ,2009, New Delhi India

Emotional support and counseling guidelines in Pediatric Psycho-oncology, September 28th ,2008, New Delhi, India

Ongoing Internship Program in Pediatric Psycho-oncology with National and International Universities

Milestones

A ten day Pediatric Psycho-oncology course has been designed and conducted by the Cankids Pediatric Psycho-oncology Program .The first batch of the course was held in January 21st -30th ,2016 in New Delhi,India which included 52 educational sessions with 24 faculty members such as Pediatric Oncologists, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Certified Child Life Specialists , Alternate Therapists and Management Trainers, Social Scientists, Nutritionists, Researchers' and other experts.

The curriculum includes educational session on relevant treatment concerns and current psychological care practices:

- Clinical and Psychological aspects of pediatric oncology, its impact and consequent need for Psycho-social Support
- Global standards of care in applying Psycho-oncology and Child Life principles, Stages of counseling in Pediatric Psycho-oncology and Principles of Communication.
- Integration of psychological support in Pediatric Palliative care and Bereavement Support.
- Child Life Competencies and Integration of Supportive and Expressive Therapies
- Program Management and Implementation Skills & Research Methodologies.

