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SCHOOL DROPOUTS AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS

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ABSTRACT :

School dropout rates continue to be a significant global issue shaped by poverty, family instability, peer pressure, academic difficulties, and lack of motivation. Dropping out of school can lead to long-term negative consequences including social exclusion, unemployment, and poverty. Social workers help to prevent dropouts greatly by means of intervention programs, counseling, and advocacy. Working directly with students, families, and schools, they identify early warning signals and address underlying issues. By offering emotional support, career guidance, and financial assistance, social workers help at-risk children stay engaged in their education. They also collaborate with lawmakers to implement inclusive educational policies and assist systems encouraging school retention. Through mentoring, crisis intervention, and community involvement, social workers create a supportive environment for students, so reducing dropout rates and ensuring long-term academic success. Their role is vital in creating a more fair and reachable education system.

Introduction :

School dropout is a personal issue that affects many as it presses for individuals, families, and society at large. Often, poverty, family instability, lack of academic support, peer pressure, and socio-emotional concerns drive it. Dropping out of school can have long-term consequences such social marginalization, financial instability, and limited career opportunities. Dealing with this issue calls for a several approach; social workers are particularly crucial in intervention and prevention.Social workers identify at-risk children and provide necessary help by working with families, schools, and communities. They offer counselling, mentoring, and financial help to enable students remain engaged in learning. They also back inclusive policies ensuring all students equal access to education. Early intervention programs, awareness campaigns, and rehabilitation activities help social workers reduce dropout rates and create a supportive learning environment. Their role is absolutely vital in fostering long-term social development and educational stability.

Literature review :

School dropout is a significant issue affecting society as a whole, families, and individuals. Among other things, economic hardship, family instability, academic pressure, and peer pressure all add to the complex and sometimes related reasons of students leaving school before completing their education. These factors create challenges that make it difficult for students to stay engaged in their education, therefore driving them to depart. Social workers help to meet these challenges especially by providing counseling, mentoring, financial assistance, and advocacy. Their actions enable at-risk children to overcome obstacles and remain in school, therefore improving their prospects of academic achievement and future possibilities.Financial struggle is one of the key factors contributing to student dropouts. Many students from low-income families feel forced to prioritize work above education in order to help their households. Their lack of money for transportation, school supplies, or meals makes students even more disheartened from attending school regularly. Often, financial instability causes frequent relocations that disrupt a student's learning and impede consistent academic progress. These students lack sufficient financial support, which creates major obstacles to finishing their education and so strengthens poverty cycles and limits their future opportunities. By connecting students to community resources, financial aid, and scholarship programs that lower the financial burden and support school retention, social workers help to address these problems.Dropout rates from school are also significantly influenced by family instability. Students who experience domestic violence, parental neglect, divorce, or substance abuse at home often find it emotionally and academically challenging. Students lack the drive to complete their education; hence, a lack of parental support and motivation may lead them to lose interest in school. Researches show that children from broken homes are more prone to leave school while those with involved and encouraging parents are more likely to complete it. Social workers provide families direct counseling and mediation to help them create a more stable home that supports a child's education. They also enable parents to understand their role in their child's educational path, so fostering better family communication and support.Academic difficulties cause students to drop out of school, particularly for those without the necessary assistance to thrive or who suffer continuous failures. Conventional schools could be difficult for students with learning disabilities or special educational needs without suitable changes. Often, inadequate resources and crowded classrooms prevent teachers from providing struggling pupils the personal attention they need. Social workers advocate for these children by ensuring they receive the necessary academic support, including tutoring, special education services, and mentoring programs that enable them to develop confidence and improve their performance.Peer pressure is another factor affecting school dropout rates. Teenagers who spend time with friends who have left school or engage in risky behaviors are more likely to follow the same path. Bullying and social exclusion can also push children to leave school in order to avoid negative experiences. By fostering good peer relationships, building support groups, and so doing, social workers help to create an inclusive school

atmosphere where students feel safe and motivated to continue their education.Social workers reduce school dropout rates by addressing social, family, economic, and academic concerns. Their deeds provide students the needed motivation and tools to stay engaged in their studies. Improving social work programs and financing dropout prevention projects will help society to ensure that more students complete their education and reach long-term success.

Conclusion:

A multifarious issue, school dropout needs a careful approach. Social workers help to solve this issue greatly by providing at-risk children guidance and support. Through early intervention, community partnerships, and professional development, social workers can help children overcome barriers to education. Working together will enable us to guarantee that every student has the resources required to succeed and access to quality education. Good responses require a commitment to assist underprivileged children, tools, and collaboration. Our handling of the fundamental reasons of school dropout will help to reduce the number of dropouts, increase academic achievement, and enhance the general well-being of students. Ultimately, this demands unrelenting effort from teachers, politicians, and community members.

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