

TUNING IN TO THE LEADERS

SESSION 9



Mr Mohd Ali Bin Mahmood has more than 23 years of social work experience and holds a B.A from NUS majoring in social work. He is currently the Senior Director with PPIS where he oversees the Social Service Division as well as the Training & Consultancy Unit. Previously, he spent 9 years as a Medical Social Worker in Singapore General Hospital, where he was instrumental in setting up the Medical Social Service Department in National Heart Centre and headed it for a year. In the 15 years with PPIS, he has spearheaded the development of many innovative social intervention programmes, including the setting up of INSPIRASI PPIS – a marriage preparation and enrichment hub for young couples. He is also the author of "Counselling Journal: Unravelling the Dilemma of a Pregnant Teen", published in 2010. For his contributions to the sector, he received the Outstanding Social Worker Award in 2009. He is also currently a member of the Fostering Review Committee in MSF.

What do Social Workers do?



Partnership with clients,
organisations and
agencies.



Advocating for change



Working together to
better the community

The Dance of Social Work

A central black circle contains the text "Characteristics of a good Social Worker". Four arrows point outwards from this circle to four distinct text blocks: top-left (red), top-right (blue), bottom-left (green), and bottom-right (orange).

Characteristics of a good Social Worker

Sincerity and Genuineness

- Putting in effort and persevering despite obstacles (eg. language barriers)

Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary setting

- Responsibility of being the voice of the patient and the voice of the profession

Ability to learn from experience

- Due to the absence of a Social Work instruction manual, one expands learning through experiences

Foresight

- Planning in advance for future plans



MY HOPES FOR THE SOCIAL WORK SECTOR

1.

For organisations to increase support for Social Workers eg. Through the paying of SASW membership fees

2.

For Social Workers to hold on to the belief that Social Workers help to shape society not only one person at a time but also one act at a time

3.

For Social Workers to have more confidence in our profession and position as Social Workers

4.

For the increase in research and diversity in the Social Work profession



How and what kind of support do you receive or wish to receive as a social service leader to maintain your role and your delivery?

- A big factor is the support that you get from home
- Organisationally, the person whom you report to should have the same vision and allow some level of freedom for you to be able to explore new things in the sector that are not specifically just for the organisation. Openness and flexibility is important.



Do you have any advice for young aspiring Social Workers who are planning to tell their parents about their intentions to join the social service sector? (since most parents do not have much knowledge about social work)

- Parents need to see the passion that you want to help others. Thus you need to manifest that behaviour so that parents can convince themselves.
- It should be displayed not only in words but in actions. This will cause them to see that working in the social service sector is something you are passionate for and thus make conversation with your parents much easier.