



Mr Udhia Kumar

# Tuning in to the Leaders

Session 18

Mr Udhia Kumar is Executive Director of Thyee Hua Kwan Family Service Centre Tanjong Pagar. He graduated from NUS with a Second Upper Honours in Social Work in 1995, and he has been in direct counselling practice for over 15 years. He specializes in Family Wellness work. He was recently awarded the Ann Wee NUS Social Work Alumni Award in 2015.

## Journey to becoming a Social Worker



He believes that his past experiences are the reasons for his journey.



### Social Justice

Mr Kumar came from a single parent family. He had a younger sister who was born with a disability and he lost her when she was 5 years old. Life was tough for the family. They had to stay in a one room rental flat, without a proper study environment. His past sparked his interest to be actively involve in family related conflicts. He believes that no family in today's world should be living life the way he did 30-40 years ago.



### Family and Community

Although Mr Kumar's mother was not rich, she had a heart of compassion for people. He also attended St Gabriel school, which taught him alot about serving the community. His upbringing contributed to him developing compassion for the society.

## Qualities of leaders



Compassion



Focused



Trustworthy



Fair



Resourceful



Experimenter



Creative



Empowerer



Ready to learn from failures



Forgiving



## Vision for the Community

1. To be EMPOWERED
2. To be HOPEFUL for the future
3. To be ENDURING
4. To have a vision for the FUTURE
5. To stay CONNECTED
6. To turn from Multi Stress Families to Multi Strengths Families

## Food for Thought

As a social worker, are you here to serve a cause, or are you counting the cost to yourself?

Ask yourself, why do you do what you do?

As a social worker, you work with people and journey with them. After all this, is social work still a job to you?



## Question and Answer

1. In your opinion, what do you think can be done to make the Family Service Centre's family services more dynamic and pro-active?

"There is a need to cut down on administrative work, and allow case workers to focus on their cases. Have a bigger team to allow for specialization, and a case management team to manage cases. The case management team can focus on studying different cases and identifying the repeated trends or patterns and to find the best solutions to tackle the problems. It is important to study the client profile as different neighbourhoods have different profiles. Every FSC should specialize in a certain area, rather than having a generic FSC worker."

2. You suggested research positions in agency, can you elaborate on what these researchers would do?

"Researchers can review the client's history or profile in order to better understand the clients. Do a complete population case study to get a complete picture of the clients through analysis. Find out what the contributing factors are that may be causing a person to have the tendency to react or act in a certain manner."