

# Social Work Intervention for Ex-Militants of Kashmir

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**Abstract:** *The purpose of this paper is to develop a social work intervention plan for the rehabilitation of ex-militants of Kashmir. Social work intervention is a strategy by social workers offer intervention to individuals, families and groups which enables them to meet their needs and issues. The main purpose of these interventions is to aid clients in alleviating problems and improving their well being. The ex-militants of Kashmir prolong to be a suffering lot because their problems are not tackled in a rational way. Present paper will access the approach to be followed to rehabilitate the ex- militants of Kashmir in social work perspective. Social work as a discipline is a helping process which seeks to improve the social functioning of individuals by helping them to augment and more efficiently employ their own problem solving and coping capacities. Social work uses many approaches to remove the social dysfunctions among the individuals. The multifaceted and deep rooted problems of ex-militants need to be addressed within the framework of such approaches.*

**Keywords:** Social work, intervention, rehabilitation, ex- militants, Kashmir

## 1. Background

Instantly after partition, both India and Pakistan resorted to conflict against each other over the piece of the land known properly as Kashmir, with both claiming that it belongs to them. In the ramification of war the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) was rendered with partition between Indian and Pakistan Administered Kashmir. India took Kashmir Issue to the United Nations Security Council that ratified the Right of Self- Determination of Kashmiris (Qureshi 1994)

Since 1948 numerous resolutions were passed by the U.N urging both states to conduct a referendum, in order to solve the long lasting problem which has taken as many as hundred thousand lives and resolve the issue in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiri masses. But unfortunately till this period of time both countries have failed to carry out the required referendum at several past instances, thus prolonging the conflict over decades. Battling hard in between are the victims of the altercation among the two countries remain to be the inhabitants of Kashmir. In 1989 mass armed uprising started in Kashmir, in which many Kashmiri men crossed the actual Line of Control to get the arms training and trying to find the solution of the problem of its own. While on the other hand the state agencies used force to suppress the movement which later on was followed by a transformation of arms movement of youth to non violent movement (Sonpar 1997). As a result of the Armed Conflict in Kashmir many suffering groups emerged. One among this suffering group is the men who took arms and eventually found that violence is not the solution.

## 2. Introduction

An ex-militant is defined as one who is no longer a militant. This may have come about through surrender or through capture and imprisonment (Sonpar 2007). This lot continues to suffer immensely because of various problems like stigmatization, less livelihood avenues, trauma, problems related to families, insecurity, loss of s steady life, etc. And there is a need to intervene professionally. Social work intervention involves planning to stabilize or improve the client's functioning in terms of social adjustment or

adaptation for proper social functioning for overall progress of individual. Social work intervention prevents the further deterioration and conserves strength which creates opportunities for growth and development. Social work as a discipline is multidisciplinary and uses various approaches to raise the standard of people who are living a substandard life.

## 3. Review of Literature

**Dr. Shobna Sonpar(2007)** 's book " Violent Activism" a psycho social study of ex-militants of Jammu and Kashmir deals with the psychology of militants with special reference to social aspects through interviews of 24 ex militants. The author points out that the post conflict reconstruction is always torn by political violence; this political violence destabilizes the social order, polarizes political debate and vitiates peace building efforts. Problems faced by ex militants in J & K are immense and includes: Issues related with the identity, status and the effects of violence and trauma, reintegration into society as workers and family men, the real danger to their lives and well being is from other militants and from the security forces. They lost a steady life, family and relations, trust-at certain extent, economic stability, education, secure future, civilian life etc. The study focuses on the psychological factors responsible for the violence taking various psycho social approaches in consideration (gender, culture, past traumatic experiences etc). In this study the problems of ex militants have not been thoroughly explained and the familial problems have been completely ignored.

**Dr. Oliver Wils (2004)** pilot project of the centre for Non violent Action on "War Veterans and Peace Building in Former Yugoslavia" aims at Building a pool of former combatants from BiH, Croatia and Yugoslavia, who would be constructively engaged in the process of dealing with the past and peace building. War veterans and their association are an important group to work with, especially in the context of dealing with the past as a central part of peace building in the region of former Yugoslavia. The evaluation study has shown that the project design is adequate, that the objectives are reasonable and that CNA, in terms of its

commitment and professionalism, is very capable of implementing the planned activities. The main objective of this study is peace building by engaging ex combatants and the rehabilitation and reintegration of the former combatants has been neglected to some extent.

**De.Silva.K.L.A Mada(2012)** M.A dissertation “Re-Integration of Former Liberation Tigers of Tamil EELAM Combatants into Civilian Society in Post War Srilanka” submitted to “Naval Post Graduate Monterey California” states, how the programs of reintegration can be successful, and what potential problems could arise in the process of reintegration. Therefore, thesis attempts to identify the questions of the Sri Lankan rehabilitation of ex-militants in comparison to other nations like Saudi Arabia, Yemen etc, in understanding how de-radicalization and re-integration evolved in these countries, and how they reached the benchmarks by overcoming weaknesses and lapses. This dissertation is finding an ultimate method to reintegrate and rehabilitate ex militants while critically analyzing existing methods. The integration models are diverse and the applicability varies from one region to another depending on the context of the problems of the ex-militants and the nature of the armed conflict.

## 4. Intervention Plan

### 4.1 Micro level Intervention

Micro level intervention involves working with individuals separately, in families, or in small groups to facilitate changes in individual behavior or in relationships. Individuals often seek social work services because they experience difficulties with personal adjustment, interpersonal relationships, or environmental stresses (Dubois 1999). Changes at this level focus on creating changes in individual functioning. Workers also may plan to initiate modifications in clients’ social and physical environments to achieve changes at micro level. The psychological, physical and social problems of ex-militants can be addressed at micro level through social case work, counseling, social group work practice. Psycho analytical and psycho social approaches are widely used in addressing the problems of clients in this approach.

### 4.2 Midlevel Intervention

The midlevel of social work intervention represents work with formal groups and complex organizations. Various Governmental and Non Governmental agencies come under this heading (Dubois 1999). Work with formal groups include working with teams and, interdisciplinary taskforces, service clubs etc. with midlevel intervention, the focus of change is on the groups or organizations themselves. Effective midlevel work requires skills in organizational planning decision making, and conflict negotiation. The institutional intervention through services is done at this level.

### 4.3 Macro level intervention

Macro level intervention includes working with neighborhoods, communities and societies to achieve a significant change. Macro systems practice reflects the

social reform –the pursuit of a desirable change to improve the quality of life. This approach believes more in activism—community mobilization, organization and social action are the key components of this approach. At macro level social workers help resolve intergroup tensions and community problems by initiating social action and social change. Their attitudes include activities such as economic development, legislative action and policy formulation. The socio political problems of the ex-militants can be addressed through this approach. The community based rehabilitation is important for the welfare of the ex-militants. The revival of local Mohalla (community) Committees is essential for the community rehabilitation of ex-militants.

### 4.4 Socio-Economic Model

Trades, entrepreneurial training and education programs have been identified to address the rehabilitation of the ex-militants. Keeping in view the indigenous resources of Kashmir areas such as general artisanship, building and construction, environmental management, agriculture, transportation, information technology, creative arts and entertainment, and tourism has been identified. It becomes obligatory for Government and Non Governmental institutions to set up training centers. The strategy that needs to be adopted in the rehabilitation program is that the training institutions shall incorporate entrepreneurial skills for the various courses to give the ex-militants the option of self employment after the completion of their training. In addition, the training vendors/institutions need also be responsible for the boarding, feeding and general well being of the participants that are sent to their facilities. The formal as well as informal education needs to be imparted to the ex-militants. Identified vocational courses on the bases of interest of ex-militants are considered pertinent in the economic empowerment phase by setting Business Start Up - Small & Medium Enterprises (SME)

### 4.5 Social Psychological Approach

Glynis M.Breakwell and Collen Rowlett(1982) have presented social psychological approach. This emphasis perceiving and understanding the individual in his social context as is the problem of ex- militants. The problems of ex- militants are deep rooted, complex and multilayered which categorically involves social and psychological aspects. This approach involves theories of social psychology. It involves analysis of problems, explanation of the problems, process of change and reflexivity.

### 4.6 Integrated Model of Practice

The integrated approach focuses on the transactions of individuals and their environment in the constant state of reciprocity with each shaping the other. This model is more consistent with ecological approach. This model of social work involves casework, group work and community organization. (Goldstein 1973). It consists of role induction phase, when the focus is directed towards the clarification, development and assumption of the client role concurrent with the identification and evaluation of the problem. Core phase is that juncture when the change system is stabilized, emphasis is placed on problem solving capabilities, and efforts are directed towards resolution and change. Ending

phase is the terminal phase of service wherein resolution of the problem is achieved and evaluated. For the complex problems of ex-militants the integrated approach is more advocated. Along with the community support model the integrated model is expected to show some positive responses.

## 5. Conclusion

The problems faced by the ex militants in Jammu and Kashmir are immense which needs a professional intervention. The men who took arms and their family members continues to be a group of the people who have faced a lot of difficulties from one means or other as less scientific work has been done to highlight and address their issues especially that of family members. As a result of conflict this group emerged as one of the most vulnerable groups. The problems can be easily solved by applying the core philosophy of social work discipline and its various approaches. The state and the non state actors have a very crucial role to play in mainstreaming the ex- militants. At micro level intervention, casework, individual counseling, family counseling, group counseling, group work involving small groups should be followed. Mid level intervention precisely involves working with the formal groups and organizations and believes in the institutionalization of providing services. Various NGO's and State Institutions fall under this category. Macro level intervention involves communities and society at large. The community rehabilitation is considered best for the rehabilitation of ex-militants of Kashmir. For the economic rehabilitation of ex-militants it is important to develop livelihood opportunities. The rich resource base of the Kashmir can be harnessed to make them economically dependent. The formal education can be imparted for the social rehabilitation along with vocational training. The approach that needs be adopted in the remedy program is that the training institutions shall integrate entrepreneurial expertise. Social psychological approach emphasizes of social context of solving problems whereas integrated approach is a mixed approach which involves case work group work and community work.

In conclusion I would say, we need to deal the problems of ex- militants more professionally and seriously. Unprofessionalism in dealing with their problems can aggravate their problems further and they may once again adopt the violent ways of solving problems.

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