The Anxiety of Infection among Social Workers in the Medical Field during the COVID-19 Pandemic "A Qualitative Study"

*DR. Basheer Ali Allowaish

Abstract

The COVID-19 crisis has been inflicting substantial financial and human life losses all over the world, increasing fear and anxiety among individuals, and highlighting the importance of social work as a human profession that manages societal events and addresses problems and phenomena. Social workers in the medical field exposed to the risk of COVID-19 infection have the following objectives: to identify the extent of social workers’ concerns regarding the new coronavirus (COVID-19), to learn about their professional practices during the crisis, and to identify the difficulties that they encounter. This is a qualitative study which employs the social survey method. Interviews were conducted to collect data, and the study population consisted of 14 social workers (both male and female) working in government hospitals in Hail. The most important results showed that social workers lacked concern that they might get infection except at the beginning of the emergence of COVID-19. The results also showed that social workers have a professional practice during the crisis with various roles, including coordination with patients and their families to deliver medicine as well as participation as members of mobile clinic teams to examine the coronavirus. The difficulties are that social workers are not included in the infection allowance and the lack of specialized short-term training programs and diplomas. The most important recommendation is the necessity for the Ministry of Health to provide social workers with the infection allowance and to enroll them in training programs to improve their professional creativity and pursue their remarkable initiatives in times of crisis and infectious diseases.

Key words: Anxiety, The COVID-19, Social Worker