

Supplementary File 1

Ethics and professionalism among young community mental health workers in delivering mental health services to youth in educational settings in urban Chennai: Challenges and recommendations

Method: Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Participants: Young CMHWs such as research assistants, intervention facilitators, school counsellors and psychiatric social workers involved in the delivery of youth mental health interventions in educational settings in Chennai

Demographics of the participants:

1. Age
2. Gender
3. Education
4. Occupation
5. Marital status
6. Number of years of experience in working with youth
7. Settings in which worked with youth

Ethics:

- 1) According to you all, what is ethics in community work?
- 2) How do you perceive the term “ethical challenges”?
- 3) According to you all, what are the components of ethical practice working with youth at the community level?
- 4) Can you recall a time when ethical challenges and issues interfered with your engagement with youth? How did you deal with it?
- 5) Do you all think that the nature of research and intervention influences ethical practices in schools or colleges?
(*Prompts; deadlines, high number of students, researcher availability, personal competence, resources*)

Professionalism:

- 1) In relation to your role as a community mental health worker (CMHW), what does the term professionalism mean to you?
- 2) In relation to your role as CMHW what would make you think someone is being unprofessional?
(*Probes: role boundaries, appearance, time, advice given*)
- 3) What are some barriers in maintaining professionalism while working in schools and colleges?
- 4) How did you all overcome these barriers in these educational settings?
- 5) What are some steps in which we can better support the youth we work with and our fellow CMHWs?

Thank you and closing remarks.