

## SCHOOL DROPOUT PREVENTION STRATEGIES AT SCHOOL LEVEL: A SOCIAL WORK APPROACH

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### **Abstract**

*School dropout is still a serious problem that hinders both personal growth and the advancement of the rural and tribal part of the India. Dropout prevention at the school level necessitates a multifaceted strategy that tackles students' emotional, social, and academic obstacles. Early detection of at-risk students, improving teacher-student relationships, and encouraging parental involvement are all key components of social work strategies. In order to ensure that interventions are comprehensive and inclusive, social workers are essential in bridging gaps between schools, families, and communities. Schools can create environments that support student success and retention by incorporating community support, counseling, and mentorship. Methods: The study adopted a theoretical paper approach with a descriptive research design. The primary purpose of the study is to explore various school dropout prevention strategies. To achieve this objective, the study systematically described strategies implemented at different levels, including students, teachers, parents, social work and institutional frameworks.*

### **Keywords**

*Dropout, School, Social work, strategies*

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## **Introduction**

The schools are a foundational step for every person, but when we look at the Indian situation, it is dissimilar from other developed nations. In India, there are so many problems which are related to block towards development, such as lack of infrastructures, over-crowded children, lack of well trained and dedicated teachers, unfavorable school environment, less attractive academic activities, sometimes there are harms like dropout, push outs, and slow learners etc. (Jat & Gautam, 2022; Sangma & Mishra, 2024) Also, it was observed by UNICEF, around 40 percentage of young girls in India dropout of school before Class 10. Moreover, these challenges clearly show the need for social work to overcome these evils. However, students' dropout is a major challenge for today's society. Therefore, here we all must try to understand this concept in depth. (Gowda and Sekhar, 2014; Smile Foundation, 2022, November 5) India's rural and tribal regions face distinct difficulties when compared to the country's cities. Dropping out of school is a common occurrence.

In the last five decades the Government and Non-Government organizations brought up many changes in elementary education and achieved 90% students' enrolment rate, also programs like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, right to education, mid-day meals, scholarships and other infrastructure development programs were significantly contributed the quantitative growth of elementary education in other side the qualitative part of the education need to improve in different dimensions. In order to address the issues in schools, a multidimensional effort has to be taken into consideration; school social work is one among these specialized areas, which contributes to and brings positive change in issues. Now let's explore the scope of it in the following para.

School social work is defined by the National Association of Social Workers as practiced in elementary, middle, and high school settings. They may work in special schools for students with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities (National Association of Social Workers (NASW), n.d.). Professional school social work is one of the fields in social work. It plays an essential role in the school in creating a favorable environment. The school social workers addressed the needs of students in three basic domains: academic, social, and career development. Classroom instruction, evaluation, consulting, counseling, coordination, and teamwork all contribute to the development of knowledge, comprehension, and abilities in various areas (School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA), 2025.; Dupper, 2002; Kelly, 2008; Lai, Z. 2024). For instance, to assist students in exploring their vocational requirements or interests, school social workers may employ a range of personality and vocational assessment techniques. Self-management and self-monitoring abilities

are part of the preventive aspect of classroom guidance lessons. Students can receive individual or smaller group services from the professional school social worker's responsive service component (Harikrishnan & Sailo, 2019; Gambrill, 1997; Bye & Alvarez, 2007).

### **School Strategies**

- Establish a coordinate relationship between students and the teacher
- Effective students engage in school activities
- Build an effective communication mechanism between parents and the school
- Train life skills in the students to boost their self-esteem
- Provision of counselling services to students, parents, and teachers
- Use of alternative education aids like multimedia device-based methods
- Update technologies in teaching and learning
- Rapid addressing mechanisms for violence and discrimination
- Build an ecosystem among peers to listen and support each other
- Ensure safeguard of child rights at all levels
- And easy conflict resolution mechanisms at the school levels (Nadaf et. al, 2012)

### **Family Strategies**

- Establish the parent-children counselling services
- Clear communication between parents and school
- Effective home visits by a social worker, wise school visit by a parent
- Organize teachers' and parents' meetings to discuss the student support mechanism
- Organize collective workshops to build supportive strategies
- Parents' engagement in the teaching-learning process

### **Student Strategies**

- Evaluate the needs of the students.
- Identification and proper treatment for the mental health issues of students.
- Increase students' social and emotional skills with the help of life skills education.
- Student-centric academic interventions to improve the academic performance.
- Boost self-motivation through story-telling and activities.
- Increase socialisation process between teacher and students.

### **School Heads Strategies**

- Improve community participation and parents-teacher relationships.
- Formation of Schol Development and Monitor Committee and address this issue to them.
- Conducting rally's (prabhat beri's) towards drop outs.
- Activities-based curriculum design and implementation
- Arrange attractive learning environment for students.
- Regularly carry out parents meeting and discuss about preventive methods.

### **Social Worker Strategies**

- Enhance community and parents' effective participation in schools
- Promotion of values-based educational activities to the children
- Use of violence prevention and conflict resolution curricula
- Develop a mechanism to use self-help techniques to identify and support each other
- The prevention of all kinds of violence and harassment among students
- Ensure students are treated fairly, equally, and with respect by the other stockholders
- Establish a secure atmosphere for both teachers and students
- Details and recommendations for community-based organisations that will assist families
- Organise cultural or recreational events at school, where families and students have fun together
- Create opportunities that may focus on parenting skills
- Enabler teachers, students, and parents ecosystem for better student-friendly schooling (SSWAA, 2025; Hare,1988; Baker & Sansone, nd, 2020, 1990; Duttweiler, 1986)

### **Conclusion**

Teachers and schools are the essential components of the educational system, and education is the foundation of a developing country. In all honesty, a country's ability to advance is ultimately determined by the caliber of its educational system. Many people consider school social work to be one of the most honorable subfields of social work. But when we examine our schools, we discover a number of obstacles at the levels of parents, teachers, students, and the government. Significant and clear change in the educational system can be achieved through cooperation between government organizations (GOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), parents,

teachers, and students. As members of society and social workers, we must take the quality of education seriously and cooperate to improve it.

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