

Methods of Assessment

“Alternate Care Workshop”

Bangkok

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Introduction

- Assessment in social work is the foundation of planning and decision making.
- Assessment is cyclical in nature
Assessment requires the use of Ethics, Principles and codes of conduct.
- People undertaking assessments require a range of skills and competencies.

Methods of Assessment are determined or guided by the following factors:

- THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSESSMENT
- THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK
- THE APPROACH USED
- THE CONTEXT
- THE TOOLS USED
- ANALYSIS AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

The PURPOSE of the assessment:

- Crisis and Risk Assessment
- Placement needs
- To assess potential foster parents
- Court ordered assessment
- To inform Court processes (victims and offenders)
- To inform adoption processes
- To assess placement progress
- To assess standards of care
- Reintegration/restoration processes
- Emergencies/disasters responses

The FRAMEWORK: What is the legislative and policy framework for children in your State?

- Constitution of your Country
- International Conventions
- International Instruments
- National and local Legislation (LAW)
- National and local Policy
- National and local Regulations

The APPROACH: What approach will be used in the assessment?

- Medical model

- Social welfare

- Rights based

The CONTEXT: What is the context for the child and their family?

- Gender
- Disability
- Access to basic services
- Culture and tradition
- Socio-economic
- Political
- Religious
- Environmental

The TOOLS used: Gathering information?

- Individual interviews
- Case Conferences
- Family case conferences
- Strategic Questioning — (Fran Peavey)
- Child Portrait - (Cambodia, CBCP)
- Creating genograms and identifying family systems
- Making “Life Story” work books
- Drawing “Life timelines”
- Self assessment tools (for meeting standards)

ANALYSIS AND DECISION MAKING: Who will be involved, is the child included?

- Have assessment processes and information been fully documented?
- Do the people undertaking the analysis and decision making have the required information, knowledge and skills?
- Have decision makers been involved at the appropriate times during the assessment?
- Is the implementation plan realistic?
- What is the monitoring and review process for the child?