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Summer Internship Report: Abstract

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SUMMER INTERNSHIP REPORT: ABSTRACT

ROLE OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN ADDRESSING THE CIVIL UNREST AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19, IN THE CONTEXT OF ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IS an armor for the Law Enforcement Officers, Educators and Public Health Officers and Counselors, who deal with societal complexities in order to foster positive communication and maintain a sound physical and mental health. Emotional Intelligence is a prerequisite to respond effectively to high-stress environments. Building the resiliency of a workforce has a direct impact on the achievement of the goals or deliverables of a task. The Law Enforcement sector functions as the first responders to our community and relentlessly contribute to the local and global goals that preserve social justice, peace and the overall well-being of a community. This study examines the impact of Emotional Intelligence (EQ) and job performance of the Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) during COVID-19 and civil unrest. The common goal was to assess the need for a training program and offer a well-structured course on 'Emotional Intelligence and Sustainable Development Goals', to reduce the civil unrest and gender-based violence occurring as a result of the pandemic-lockdowns.

The researchers found it pertinent to conduct a gap analysis in months of March through August 2020, to analyze the need for capacity-building on 'Emotional Intelligence'. Based on the results of a survey conducted on eighty police officers (on a local and national level), there was a significant need to address the importance of 'Emotional Intelligence' across all professions. This study was carried out under the guidance of Dr. Kenneth Knapp of the New York Medical College and Bidia Deperthes, Global HIV Prevention Advisor of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The goal of Phase-I of this study was to assess the need for a training on EI. Phase-II of this research focused on providing awareness and assessment of the impact of a training on 'Emotional Intelligence' and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for law enforcement officers, by utilizing a partnership model between the Public Health and Public Safety sector.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING: A Public-Private Partnership [PPP] strategy was utilized to design a workshop (in October 2020), that addresses the applications of emotional intelligence. The overarching goal of the workshop was to provide empowerment on how professionals could emotionally and intelligently connect with the community to enhance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs of the United Nations): SDG-3 (Better health outcomes for all), SDG-8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG-16 (Peace and Social Justice). This workshop takes the participants on a journey from their current local initiatives to global perspectives.

The first responders to this capacity building workshop were the 'First Responders' of Franklin Township Police Department (New Jersey).

METHODS: For the purpose of this study the research investigators partnered with the United Nations Association- USA (UNA-USA), National Office of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NOBLE) and the Franklin Township Police Department. This workshop was incentivized by the award of a certificate from the Director and the Youth Engagement Manager of the UNA-USA. Chandra P. Daniel, the Global

Goals Ambassador for Partnerships (UNA-USA) and Lieutenant Dr. Stacey Lloyd facilitated this partnership by bringing the three organizations to partner together on the award-certificates. The capacity building workshop is called: 'Training: Emotional Intelligence and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations'.

RESULTS: This study brought to light that each situation encountered by the public safety sector was worsened and plagued with the onset of the opioid epidemic and the pandemic (COVID-19). The shut-down and lockdowns due to the current pandemic has caused a silent but steady increase in gender-based violence and many other forms of civil unrest. The rescuers and first responders to all the challenges and civil unrest during COVID-19, in the months of March through August 2020, were the law enforcement officers.

INFERENCE: It was inferred from the study and preparations for the collaborative training that the efficient way to achieve any task or local goals is done with emotional intelligence, especially when routine tasks revolve around frequent and high-conflict circumstances. The law enforcement officers are the population who require this training the most since they shoulder the challenge of being our first responders to the several environmental, social and political situations in our community. This collaborative project will evaluate the impact of the workshop on the target audience and expand to a national training in the year 2021.

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