

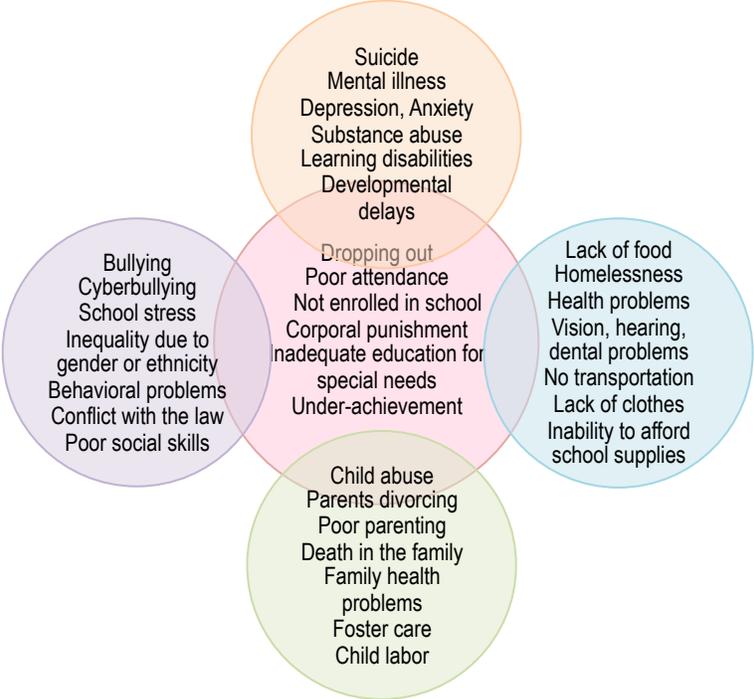
**International Network for School Social Work**  
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**School Social Work Needs Assessment Continued**

Children’s needs relate to emotional, material, social and family circumstances and school problems.



Schools provide an environment where children’s needs can be addressed by a team of professionals including teacher, special needs teacher, social worker, nurse, school doctor, psychologist, counselor, speech and language therapist, physical therapist and school administrator. The following are some countries in Africa, Asia and Europe where establishing school social work is still needed.

**Botswana**

A 2016 article, **Are School Social Workers Needed in Botswana Schools?**, by Tapologo Maundeni and Dolly Ntseane “argues that social workers are needed in Botswana schools to help students deal with the psychosocial problems that hinder effective learning. Such problems include truancy and school drop-outs, divorce, HIV/AIDS, poverty, child abuse, substance abuse, low self-esteem, teenage pregnancy, sexual

*harassment and lack of support services*". The University of Botswana has placed social work students in schools as a step towards introducing school social work. The full article is available on ResearchGate.

### **Sierra Leone**

A needs assessment conducted by Jeffrey Bulanda and Sulaiman Jalloh surveyed 135 teachers and school administrators concluding "*Recommendations are made to deploy school social workers in Sierra Leone to (1) facilitate individual education planning, (2) counsel school pupils, (3) consult with school staff, (4) engage parents in the education of their children, and (5) serve as a liaison with community stakeholders*". The Abstract of **A needs assessment for school social workers in Sierra Leone**, 2017, is on ResearchGate.

### **Uganda**

Following an exploratory 2013 study on **Socio-Educational Support for School Going Children in Uganda**, Ronald Luwangula and Sabrina Riedl wrote of "*pervasive poverty, inequality, gender disparities, punitive discipline, post-conflict problems, child-headed households and lack of support*" and concluded that "*Through the inclusion of social work services in Uganda's educational system, many vulnerable children will be enabled to stay in school*". Available online, the section on school social work is on pages 315 – 332 in the 2016 book *Professional Social Work in East Africa*.

### **Pakistan**

In 2014 Ranjha, Asif Naveed; Shoukat, Aisha; and Dilshad, Muhammad published **Need of School Social Work in Response to Education Related Problems in Pakistan**. The Abstract states "*Literature analysis explores children's low admission rate in schools, corporal punishment, absenteeism, indiscipline, bullying, failure, dropout and difficulties in the syllabus as major problems. This study suggests initiation of school social work in some schools on experimental basis for a certain period. Appointment of school social workers will be helpful to develop coordination among children, school, teachers, parents and community and to solve school and education related problems*".

### **Sri Lanka**

Mrs.V.Gowry Vasudevan designed the school social work curriculum for the Training Division at the National Institute of Social Development. Students have opted this elective and do field-work in schools. So far the Ministry of Education appoints school counselors, not social workers. Much remains to be done.

### **Vietnam**

The Ministry of Education and Training has issued a plan to introduce school social work. Various workshops have been conducted and school social work will most likely be introduced first in Ho Chi Minh City. Information from Le Chi An, Head, Social Work Unit, Ton Duc Thang University, HCMC.

### **Albania**

"*Establishment of a new psycho-social service in Albanian schools September 12, 2013, Tirana, Albania: Based on the order of the Ministry of Education and Sport (MoES), a new Psycho-social Unit in schools will be established starting from this 2013-2014 school year. This service, which will be offered by mixed teams of school psychologists and social workers, represents a considerable achievement and a pioneering initiative, not only in Albania, but also across the South Eastern European region*". Terre des Hommes.

### **Macedonia**

Two years ago, we also undertook a survey among secondary schools assessing perceptions for need of School Social Work among teachers, students and parents and the results were positive in terms of greater need of School Social Work. Maja Mitev Gerovska, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University (2019).

### **Turkey**

In 2016 Nurullah Calis and Sirin Targan Calis wrote in Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Academic Conference "*It is obvious that there has been various ongoing social problems in school settings in Turkey such as violence, harassment, substance abuse, family-related problems, mental health problems. This actually indicate a need for enhanced social services and social work in schools. In this regard, this study suggests some effective social policies for education and refers to the significance of school social work services in Turkish school settings*". Abstract online - **Social Policy for Education: Assessing Needs of Turkey**.