

The challenges of migration to australia social work essay



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The aim of this case study is to discuss the challenges that are being experienced by a family who have recently migrated from Iran to Australia. The various strengths and weaknesses of the family's ways of managing their stressors, and advantages and disadvantages of living in a blended family will also be investigated. Health promotions which operate throughout communities may be beneficial for this family, especially gender specific promotions directed towards Katya. Health care providers may be able to assist them by providing them with information and support. Professional standards need to be implemented when caring for Katya due to her cultural beliefs. Zak, who is 17 years old, will be assessed as to whether he is meeting his developmental goals for his age. Ahmed and Katya have decided against immunising their children, information and various strategies will be implemented to ensure they that they are able to make an informed choice on the subject. Ahmed, Katya and their family have recently migrated to Australia from Iran, and are currently experiencing challenging situations that can ultimately affect their daily lives. Katya is found to have advanced cervical cancer and must be hospitalised in the next town. This proves as a major challenge as she is now unable care for her children. As the main carer of her children, this may impact adversely on her husband Ahmed and their finances. Ahmed will have to care for his youngest children, and will be unable to carry out any of his work commitments. As the family have no other relative living in Australia, this will be a difficult time for them as according to Walker, Crawford & Taylor, (2011, pp. 430) support would be an invaluable asset as they would be able to provide care to the younger children and provide financial support to the family to overcome the issues

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at hand. Katya's condition is one that can affect the entire family rely and this situation may also take a financial strain on them, as Katya treatments may incur an increased amount of debt and Ahmed will be unable to work and care for his children. Although as McConnell, Breitzkreuz & Savage, (2011, pp. 680) indicate that financial issues can have a negative effect on the parents but also the children, and this can produce an increased amount of stress which can prohibit the care that needs to be provided to the them. The family is currently experiencing a number of stressful events such as illness and financial issues. Though they possess a number of strengths that will allow them to manage these situations and undertake their new found responsibilities in a stress free manner. The Muslim beliefs of the family that are evident through Katya is also a strength of the family. Religious beliefs as according to Lamanna & Riedmann, (2010, pp. 70) allows the family to unite as one during religious holidays and will allow the family to join local Muslim communities that will benefit them in times of stress. The family also has a number of weaknesses, such as lack of communication with in the family is an issue that is ongoing and can be detrimental to the members of this family. The lack of communication is evident through Zak and Ahmed. Zak, who inspires to travel the world and become a chef, must keep his dreams a secret, as his father may be disappointed in him. Xiao, Li & Stanton, (2011, pp. 53) suggest that communication between parents and their children is important as it can establish a trusting relationship and assist the child in being more confident in themselves and the life choices they make. As a blended family there are a number of advantages but also challenging factors that allow a family to function. As according to Haley, (2013 pp. 31) entering a family can ease financial strain in single parents

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and assist them to provide more than the basic necessities that they may have not been able to provide to their children prior to this union. However as Haley, (2011, pp. 30) points out that blended families can also cause distress to the children involved. The presence of a new step parent taking the place of their biological parent, and the difference in discipline and caring techniques may cause anger and resentment within the child. Another challenging factor that Haley,(2011, pp. 31) points out is the presence of new children can be seen as a threat when observing their parent care for these other children. The writer suggests that as time progresses and the family becomes familiar with each-others routines, the family will eventually learn to live together with minimal issues. Within this family there are a number of factors that restrict them from accessing healthcare. As Katya is a religious individual, McLean, Ahbabi, Ameri, Mansoori, Yahyaei & Bernsen, (2010, pp. 311) indicate that the ability to access care may be impeded due cultural beliefs, that restrict male healthcare professionals from assessing female patients. This may prove as a barrier in Katya's case, as according to Hasnain, Connell, Menon, & Tranmer,(2011, pp. 73) because different healthcare providers may be unable to provide the appropriate staff that has been requested and therefore the patient may be unwilling to seek out adequate healthcare. A language and communication barrier is also a dominant factor as Hasnain, Connell, Menon, & Tranmer, (2011, pp. 77) note that some individuals who are unable to speak English require the assistance of an interpreter. However many patients do not have access to interpreters and any information or education given to them by health care professionals can be misinterpreted. Underhill, Bartel, Goldstein, Snodgrass, Begbie, Yates, White, Jong & Grogan (2009, pp. 321) suggest that a family living in a rural

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location will experience limited healthcare opportunities, due to the limited availability of healthcare services and appropriate specialist staff needed by families living in rural locations. Underhill, Bartel, Goldstein, Snodgrass, Begbie, Yates, White, Jong & Grogan (2009, pp. 321) also point out that diagnosing an illness can also be delayed due to the lack of transport and inability to travel long distances, this can dissuade individuals from seeking out the healthcare that is required. Ahmed who has been experiencing chest pains for a while has kept this to himself and has not disclosed this to a healthcare professional. This can be seen as a gender specific barrier as observed by Nobis, Sanden & Elofsson, (2007, pp. 79) that many males may view illness as being vulnerable which can cause the individual to ignore symptoms and not visit a healthcare professional until symptoms become unmanageable. As Zak is a 17 year old boy, he is expected to have developed according to his motor development, psychosocial behaviour, psychosexual and whether his cognitive development is appropriately for his age. Erickson's psychosocial development theory as according to Chiocca, (2011, pp. 22) identifies that Zak falls into the stage of Identity versus Role confusion. As according to Haley, (2010, 461) individuals in this adolescent stage need to learn what type future they wish to pursue. It is evident that Zak's psychosocial development is normal as he had desires to become a chef and travel the world. However as Haley, (2010, pp. 462) Zak may need to be offered more support in order to effectively establish his identity in order to decrease uncertainty relating to his future. Freud's stages of Psychosexual development theory as Chiocca, (2011, pp. 22) indicates that this stage in adolescents is the Genital stage where interest in the opposite sex becomes evident. Zak is aware of the opposite sex and as Haley, (2011, <https://assignbuster.com/the-challenges-of-migration-to-australia-social-work-essay/>

pp. 460) will begin to build more relationships with the opposite sex. Piaget's Theory of cognitive development, Chiocca, (2011, pp. 22) points out that this is the formal operations stage where the individual should be able to think maturely. Haley, (2011, pp. 22) suggests that Zak should have more complex thinking ability. Whilst on a visit to the Maternal and Child health nurse it is evident that Katya and Ahmed have not immunised their children. Education and information needs to be provided to ensure that informed decisions can be made about immunisations for their children. Although Katya may seem reluctant to immunise her children whilst in Australia, in Iran it may have been difficult as according to Rouhi, Usefi, Hasan & Vizeh (2012, . pp419) many mothers in third world countries are unable to read and write and this has played a major factor in understanding exactly what immunisations do and what effects they will have on her children. A strategy that can be implemented as indicated by Dhami & Sheikh, (2008, pp. 21) can be the use of interpreters by person or by phone will assist healthcare professionals to communicate relevant information to patients who do not speak English. A number of resources can be provided to Katya to give her a better understanding of immunisations. The department of health - Victoria, 2013 offers information on the various immunisations, their benefits and at what age children should be receiving them. Haley, (2011, pp. 569) suggests that healthcare professionals need to assist parents to understand that many diseases that are extremely serious in childhood, have vaccinations to prevent them. Another strategy that can be implemented to assist Katya and Ahmed on the positive factors of immunisation is to gain the assistance of a Muslim religious leader. This is suggested by McLean, Al Ahbabi, Ameri, Mansoori, Yahyaei & Bernsen, (2010, pp. 312) that the religious leader can

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assist in providing education and to clarify any misunderstandings that Katya and Ahmed have on the topic to provide the adequate healthcare to their children. The family is experiencing an increased amount of stress and require the assistance of a number of healthcare professionals to care for them. Douglas, Rebeiro, Crisp & Taylor, (2009, pp. 304) suggest that counselling services may be useful for this family to assist them in coping with the illness of Katya and any financial issues that may arise and allow the family as a whole to express concerns and feelings towards these situations. Douglas, Rebeiro, Crisp & Taylor, (2009, pp. 304) also notes that this service provides individuals with techniques to assist them develop an understanding about Katya's disease process and allow the family as a whole to develop techniques that will assist them with relaxation during stressful times. Pap screen Victoria is a health education program targeted towards women discussing why having regular pap smears is important and how often where they can be undertaken. Pap Screen Victoria, 2013, also suggests that women may benefit from being vaccinated against the human papillomavirus that causes cervical cancer. As this program is generally aimed at women, gender bias evident as there is a very limited amount of evidence shown about the stress that a male may undergo if his partner has been diagnosed with cervical cancer. Although Pap Smear Victoria, 2013 provides some information on the HPV vaccine being used in males to provide some protection against genital warts and some cancers. This program could be altered to benefit both genders by providing more information on the HPV vaccine concentrating on the number of doses and providing more information on specific age groups that need to be targeted for both genders. As suggested by Daley, Buhi, Marhefka, Baker, Kolar, <https://assignbuster.com/the-challenges-of-migration-to-australia-social-work-essay/>

Ebbert-Syfrett, Vamos, Abrahamsen & Giuliano, (2012, pp. 770) that as HPV can occur in males would be important add more information on contraceptive use and that men undergo regular testing just as females do. The writer suggests that the program can offer information for males on how to assist in caring for a female with cervicle cancer, their involvement in reminding their partners about having regular pap tests done. Proffessional and practicle issues need to be taken into consideration when caring for the family. As the family is religious, primarily Katyalt is clear that the family is experiencing difficulties such as illness that have them undergoing an increased amount of stress. The strengths they possess as a family such as religion will assist them in overcoming issues, and as a family must work on their communication in order to manage their stressors.