

Badru Asaga (not real names) on the extreme left is a patient with a tumor of the mandible. Badru is a male patient 40yrs. Patient was standing with all his family members. They have four children together with the wife (at the extreme right)

This patient joined hospice program while in prison. He was on remand due to defilement. He had hardly faced the courts of law yet had been imprisoned for over 7yrs. During this period he developed a tumor which greatly compromised his health and was worsened by the poor living conditions in the Uganda prisons. Patient's tumor was very painful and had a fowl smell. Patient's pain was treated with morphine and the smell addressed with hibicet and metronidazole powder. Hospice Africa Uganda further advocated for his bail on grounds of ill health which was granted. The patient left prisons but did not have where to stay. He was later on housed by one of his brothers together with the rest of his family members. Badru was a happy man once again and was able to meet his family which was a dream come true for he had lost hope for life.

CHALLENGES

Although Badru had met his family they were faced with the challenge of finding food and supporting his children back to school

Note; Badru's wife was jobless and yet Hassan was weak

Due to the above challenges the patient often visited hospice site in disguise of seeking for treatment then would present his difficulties. At hospice he would be provided with some package of food together with transport back home but this was not sufficient. At this point the social worker realized that the patient had developed dependency syndrome due to his poor conditions at home.

INTERVENTIONS

The social worker discussed to the patient who narrated all his difficulties, permission was sought to visit the patient's place of residence. During the social worker's visit thorough psychosocial assessment was done. It was established that the patient lived in a single room by the side of his brother's main house. It was also found out that there were some old metal by the house from which Badru used to make local charcoal stove before imprisonment. The social worker took trouble to find out why the patient had not resumed with this work ever since he returned from the prisons. It was revealed that the instruments had been scattered while he was away so he could hardly start off. The patient then was looking for capital to restart his business but in vain

The wife to Badru was a healthy and energetic woman but was just doing domestic without any income generating activity.

Through exploration of the available opportunities it was revealed that the patient's home was strategically located and that carrying out a petty business like selling charcoal would be of financial benefit to the family and hence improve the general quality of the patient. The family was provided with some money worth 200,000/= and the wife started charcoal business with one sack of charcoal as initial capital. Today there are over 20 sacks of charcoal in the business. The other monies were used to purchase instruments for the metal works.

Badru was able to restart his metal work after getting some capital from Hospice. Despite the swelling on his cheek he could still work because he was pain free. **Note;** that the tumor has continued to progress to almost cover half of his face. He can no longer do his metal work but is still pain free. Hassan was grateful for hospice support.