

The social significance of counselling

Do you as counsellor sometime wonder: Do I make a difference? Is my counselling contribution constructive? We say yes, it is for counselling is a pivotal factor in social wellbeing.

The obvious way to emphasise the social significance of counselling is to contemplate the hypothetical question: 'What would the societal consequences be if all counselling interventions were to be abolished?' Apart from the datum that welfare issues would increase, we can surmise that a desperate hopelessness would also set in, that the moral fabric of society could further disintegrate and that universal psychological wellbeing would become stifled. The tacit belief amongst people in general is that counsellors are needed in communities and that, taking into account the mental healthcare challenge, there could never be a sufficient number of therapists.

We need Eldad and Medad also in the camp



Eldad and Medad prophesied in the camp

This inevitably reminds me of the incidence we read about in the days of Moses. It is the story of a migrating nation living in the wilderness and complaining about their difficult living conditions. The strategy for Moses, their leader was to appoint seventy of the elders as prophets (or 'counsellors') to render support in lessening their burden. Surprisingly, two ordinary men who were not counted among the elders were also inspired to prophesy which caused a young boy ran to Moses and with the message that "Eldad and Medad are

prophesying in the camp." But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

Currently, many volunteers work as lay counsellors in the communities where they serve at schools, NGO's, police stations, churches and even in the corporate market. The ASCHP often had to defend this state of affairs when people challenged us: "How can you allow lay counsellors to counsel?" My answer, to paraphrase Numbers 11: "I wish that all the people were counsellors." Surely, you don't need a formal qualification to extend a helping hand to those in need; all you need is a compassionate heart and common sense. Formal qualifications are of course important to people who practice professionally and follow counselling as a career, but we all need to look out for each other.

Counselling, a social force

We at the ASCHP believe that the constant input of dedicated counsellors is a social force that exerts a positive and paramount influence, permeating the social fabric; it contributes in a meaningful way to personal integrity, moral values and standards, it contributes to problem solving and the generation of meaning, purpose and wellbeing. Counsellors help carry human burdens, coach people in self-empowerment, and spread love and hope in a world where many negative and daunting elements abound and drain us. This is an axiom: People urgently are in need of counsellors, society requires counselling, the world cannot survive without dedicated people inspired to make a difference. This task is, no doubt, hard work and calls for taxing involvement, but in terms of the social outcomes a worthwhile vocation. To summarise, in the words of Lynn I. Wilson, (*The Flock: The Autobiography of a Multiple Personality*)

"I wish I had a magic wand to make things better, but therapy doesn't work that way."

Ps. Perhaps and hopefully some of our counsellors may be encouraged to devote some postgraduate research to this topic.

News Items

(A) ASCHP visits the opening of the first QCTO counselling training provider.

The ASCHP was invited to visit the Word & Life Network Training Academy in Boksburg recently to meet their staff. This school is a prestigious institution and one of the first in South Africa to receive QCTO registration to offer the NQF level 5 qualification in social counselling that was initiated by Professor Marius Herholdt.

This skills level qualification aims to provide the required knowledge, practical skills and workplace-based experience to prepare a learner to operate as a Social Counselling Worker. A Social Counselling Worker provides supportive counselling services to individuals, families, groups and/or communities within various contexts. The course is available online.

The ASCHP wants to congratulate the management of W&L on this accomplishment and trust that they will continue to grow from strength to strength to help build the counselling profession.



ASCHP Partners with Skillworx Africa!

(B) Find here the below information

Skillworx Africa (Pty) Ltd (<https://skillworxafrica.com/>) has just partnered with the Association of Supportive Counsellors and Holistic Practitioners (ASCHP) to provide all their members access to a fully automated, cloud-based behavioural assessment system!

Considering the invaluable role that Supportive Counsellors and Holistic Practitioners play in the health and wellness of society, we have decided to offer all registered ASCHP members access to the system as well as free online certification on our personality, emotional intelligence, and aptitude products.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO	WHAT YOU GET	YOUR NEXT STEPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skillworx Africa is a South African-based assessment company that develops and supplies white-labelled psychological & behavioural assessments to companies, consultancies, psychologists, counsellors, recruiters, coaches, researchers, HR, and clinical practitioners.• We develop psychometric assessments for Recruitment, Training, Development, Coaching, Leadership, Employee Engagement, Counselling & Clinical purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to multidimensional, quality, behavioural assessments on an automated portal• Zero portal registration fees, annual license fees or administration costs• Ability to brand the assessment system and reports with your own logos and resell the products to your clients• Assessment reports priced at a fraction of the cost of others available in the market.• Download reports on a pay-as-you go basis immediately after the assessment is complete• Supervision available on request• Use either as an additional business revenue stream and / or to supplement your consulting or counselling services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Register your Counselling Practice/Consultancy HERE. (NB: you'll need to upload your highest qualification and your ASCHP membership certificate).• Complete your online certification process for our personality, emotional intelligence and ability assessments HERE and receive certificates which you can upload in the 'Organisation' section of the assessment portal (<i>Certification is not a prerequisite for registration but will come with added benefits</i>).• As long as you use the system, we'll be able to ensure it always stays free for you to use.• Subscribe to our newsletter HERE and receive ongoing updates

We'll provide support throughout the registration process as well as guidance as you navigate your first project and feedback session.

If you have any questions, please contact either Rujeko at rujeko@skillworxafrica.com or Gary at gary@skillworxafrica.com.

We are excited about this venture and look forward to growing together with our Supportive Counsellor and Holistic Practitioner community!

Members who are interest in this option should contact them directly.



With the winter season drawing close we trust that you will stay healthy and well.

Kind regards

Prof Marius Herholdt, (President) and Dr Liezl Herholdt, (CEO)