

Abstract

The objective of the study on Types of Social Network and Social Support for Potential Development of Visually Impaired People (Case studies at Caulfield for the Blind Foundation) is to analyze how each type of social network and social support can help the blind and visually impaired people improve their various potentials such as their mental health, their everyday livings and their careers. The finding of the study will be useful for any organizations to improve their works in the area of social network and social support.

The study has been conducted by using a qualitative method. The populations for the study were ten clients of Caulfield for the Blind Foundation. The information obtained from the interview has been analyzed and linked with related theories and researches.

The finding shows that family and relative network has played an important role in supporting visually impaired people, providing both moral support and financial support. Friends and people in the same community were the ones who informed visually impaired people and their families about the rehabilitation. Schools, on the other hand, have educated them to be able to live their lives. Foundations and organizations related to visually impaired people have also helped rehabilitating them and provided a career development.

For these reasons, we can conclude that the support from all social networks can help develop potentials of visually impaired people in terms of mental health and emotion. All of the networks have enabled them to be strong and willing to face all the obstacles and problems. The finding also shows that the early the disable have been rehabilitated, the better they can live in the society without difficulties.

Finally, the finding suggests that the government, schools for the blind and other related organizations should publicize and disseminate more information and knowledge. At present, a large number of visually impaired people and their families still do not know and understand about the appropriate rehabilitation and treatment. Moreover, a special organization should be set up to develop careers and provide jobs for them.