Prioritizing Problems

1. **Ethical acceptability** of the outcome for the problem, viz., you may **not** work toward an outcome which is unethical.

2. **Acceptability of problem to client**, viz., the client must agree to work on the problem.

3. **Accessibility** of the concern, viz., if you cannot get at the problem, you cannot work on it.

4. **Danger value** of the current situation, viz., a greater danger to the client and/or others implies a higher priority.

5. **Specificity of problem**, viz., well-defined, concrete problems have higher priorities.

6. **Benefit-risk Ratio**. Balance of the probable positive consequences to the probable negative consequences that would result if the problem is resolved, viz., a higher benefit-risk ratio implies a higher priority.

7. **Attainability**. Likelihood that an outcome/goal for the problem can be attained, viz., more attainable outcomes/goals have a higher priority.

8. **Interference value of the current situation** in the client's life, viz., higher interference values imply higher priorities.

9. **Likelihood of early visible progress**, viz., to enhance motivation, problems which are likely to show early, rapid improvement should be among the first chosen for intervention.

10. **Prerequisite problem**. Centrality of the concern in a complex of problems, viz., the problem must be resolved in order to work on other problems.

11. **Annoyance value of the current situation**, viz., greater annoyance value implies higher priority.

12. **Probable cost of intervention** (time, energy, money, and other resources), viz., lower cost implies higher priority.

13. **Relative frequency, duration, and/or magnitude of the problem**, viz., higher frequency, duration, and/or magnitude imply higher priority.

14. **Maintenance of gains**. The likelihood that new behaviors/situations will be maintained after end of intervention, viz., higher likelihood implies higher priority.