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Perspectives in Social Work

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VISION AND MISSION

- Contribute to building a new social order based on human dignity and social justice.
- Work with a preferential option for the vulnerable and exploited, both locally and globally.
- Build cadre of young, competent professionals having a global perspective and a strong value base of compassion, personal integrity, moderation, tolerance and self-respect.

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EDITORIAL

It is a great pleasure to write the editorial for this journal which seeks to open professional practice to new challenges and realisations in the field of social work. As a social work educator, I realize that teachers need to use much creativity to make theoretical constructions in class resonate with practice, within the framework of equity. Supporting students to question societal norms and structures requires conviction on our part, especially in today's critical time when there is an increasing role strain between the values, principles and aspirations of the profession vis-a-vis the requirements of social work jobs. Our mandate to stress on human rights and social justice will enable students to focus on the locus of the profession.

This issue of *Perspectives in Social Work* carries four articles and one book review. The first article by Jayachandran and Laxmi is based on a study of distress among parents of children with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus using the Parent Diabetes Distress Scale (Parent-DDS). The subscales used were personal distress, teen management distress, parent-teen relationship distress and health care team distress. It was found that parents have a high level of distress and this calls for intervention with them. The authors recommend that medical social workers and other health care professionals should assess the support, coping and emotional well-being of the families of children with type 1 diabetes mellitus and plan services for healthy living.

The second article by Kiirii Aniljoy and Virendra Shahare is again based on a research study to assess the adolescence education programme (AEP) on school students inDelhi. It was found that AEP has managed to enhance the knowledge of students with regard to three major components and the authors exhort the need for professional social work intervention to help sustain the programme.

Prerna Banik in the third article on social work intervention and women empowerment through micro finance, explains that the vicious cycle of feminization of poverty has its intrinsic root in the societal structure which has put women in a vulnerable situation. According to the author, the strategic focus of social work education with innovative pedagogy and an innovative value framework for understanding women's contextual problems ensures a promising role for social work on women's issues in India.

As part of her doctoral studies, Sarita Shankaran writes on problems faced by sex workers as mothers. The study, based in Kamathipura, a red light area in Mumbai, attempts to bring out the conflicts and experiences of these women as brothel-based sex workers as well as mothers. Using several narratives, the author drives home the reality that women in sex work face conflicts within and outside as they bring up their children and the dilemma between the sex workers' desire to enjoy being a mother and their responsibility to keep children safe. She firmly establishes that the women and their children need to be seen as persons by the agency and with the ability to make choices.

Meghna Vesvikar highlights the role of professional social workers in the criminal justice system in her review of a book edited by Mark David Chong and Abraham Francis. Two major points brought out by her are the strong stigma attached to social work in criminal justice given its potentially coercive enforcement and social control, as well as the relative dearth of text and research-based reference books concerning this subject from an Indian context. It is in the context of the second point that she recommends this book under review which demystifies ideas, theories and processes related to correctional social work and the criminal justice system.

Geeta Balakrishnan

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38, New Marine Lines, Mumbai- 400 020. Tel: +91-22-2200 2615, 2206 7345
Email: colsocwk@gmail.com / nn@cswnn.edu.in
Website: http://www.cswnn.edu.in