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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

This year, 2020 has been a specially challenging one for everyone and more so for social workers, not only in India but across the world. For the first time, during a crisis, we have been forced to stand back and look for new ways of engaging with the most vulnerable individuals, families and communities. Carrying out existing roles and responsibilities, despite the travel and social restrictions in place, while responding to the new needs of the clients generated due to the pandemic, the lockdown and resulting economic uncertainty has not been easy. The balance between work and family life has also been challenging especially when responding to a humanitarian crisis. In many ways, 2020 has been a year of change, of learning new ways to do our work and of upgrading our skills and capacities to build resilience not only in the vulnerable groups with whom we work, but in ourselves and in those around us. This issue contains eight articles, all drawn from primary research, covering a variety of topics, yet emphasising the need for training, re-skilling and reflection so that we take the first steps in becoming more sensitive, caring, empathetic not just to each other but also to live in greater harmony and balance with nature.

The lead article by Nilesh Thakre and Chandana Shet examines the impact of mothers' parenting style on the capacity of adolescents to cope with stress. Using primary data, the authors demonstrate that coping capacities and problem -solving skills of adolescents, whose mothers used authoritative parenting style, were higher than those whose parents followed a permissive style. They posit that effective parenting not only enhances the coping capacity of adolescents but also contributes to the development of a positive concept of self and recommend training workshops for parents and teachers to build a new generation of confident and capable adolescents.

In the second article, A. Thomas William uses a descriptive research design to analyse the effectiveness of the delivery mechanisms of services, for protection of children, used by non-government organisations. The study which was done in 8 districts of Tamil Nadu covered 72 NGOs that included working exclusively on child protection, or , primarily on child protection and those that consider child protection one of their many activities. The findings indicate that the performance of most of the participant NGOs was moderate and recommended that staff members undergo training to build their professional skills as well as sensitivity with a view to providing quality services to children and their families.

Md. Tarique Enam and Md. Shahid Raza's article seeks to develop a new understanding on men's knowledge, attitude and practice towards family planning. Set in Bihar's Kishanganj district, the findings indicate that the socio-economic status of the male respondents significantly and positively influences their knowledge, attitude and practices related to family planning. The authors opine that creating messages for men especially those from low socio-economic conditions would promote their participation in family planning.

The focus on the male perspective is continued in the next article by Nikhat Shaikh, Sheetal Rajan, Jessica Falk and Anuja Jayaraman which explores how men justify domestic violence in their marriages. The article provides new insights on how violence is perceived by men with most respondents denying that sexual abuse, shouting, verbal abuse, slapping, refusal to share financial responsibilities and undermining the wife's decision-making rights are forms of violence. The authors maintain that it is the responsibility of the State to create and activate mechanisms that foster and sustain non-violent behaviours to create a more equal, balanced and violence free society.

Lidwin Dias's article places field work practice at the centre of social work education, making it an integral aspect of the curriculum. She points out that field work practice enables students to apply and assimilate the theoretical knowledge that they gain in classrooms to real life practice situations while also enabling them to develop the skills essential for professional practice. The article discusses the different typologies of field work supervision, emphasises the role of the supervisor in supporting students build a professional identity and provides suggestions for social work educators for providing a comprehensive field work practice experience to create a new generation of competent and capable professionals.

In the next article, Ruhena Reza and Hiba Zaidi postulate that merging the tenets of Green HRM with the 5S processes can not only enable organisations to reduce waste but can also result in improved performance. The article provides a lucid explanation of both Green HRM and the 5S processes while setting out the similarities between the two to create the Green 5S model. The authors reason that developing a sense of responsibility towards the environment in the employees is the key to the success of this integrated model and can lead to a harmonious and balanced life for all.

Anshit Baxi's research on parents' involvement in Juvenile Justice System with reference to children in conflict with law in some ways reiterates the importance of parents and their role. The results reveal that higher the involvement of the parents and greater the parental participation in the rehabilitation processes, the better the chances of reducing recidivism of the child. In the article, Mr. Baxi sets out the role of the parents' vis a vis each of the stakeholders within the JJ system and opines that effective communication between them is an essential and integral aspect of ensuring the reintegration of the child in conflict with the law. He suggests the development of a coordinated model that includes parental engagement with the systems from the point of the child's entry into the JJ system till his/her exit. Training of all JJ

stakeholders to sensitize them and enable them to communicate in a more empathetic manner is also recommended.

The last article is by Debashree Kashyap who seeks to understand the relationship between a woman's employment and the nutritional status of her children. The research conducted amongst primary school children in the city of Guwahati, Assam, suggests that women who are employed contribute to an increased family income which enables the children to avail of more nutritious foods. The results indicate that child malnutrition in terms of underweight, stunting and thinness are significantly associated with the employment status of mothers, education of fathers, education of mothers, employment status of fathers, age of mothers and household income. Interestingly, the findings also show that variables such as knowledge regarding a balanced diet, providing time for child care and the adoption of hygienic practices were found to be statistically insignificant in relation to nutritional status of children.

All the articles in this issue have provided new insights on existing societal issues such as adolescent resilience, service delivery by NGOs, domestic violence, family planning, environment friendly human resource management, field work practice, rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. Emergent solutions relate to training, capacity building, reflection and innovative strategies to engage the different stakeholders. Much like the year, this issue Perspectives in Social Work provides a ray of hope and helps us reflect on how we can become better humans who respond to unexpected situations with sensitivity and empathy. The Editorial Board looks forward to your continued support and patronage in the future.

Yamini Suvarna

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