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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

We continue to live in a challenging pandemic situation with the second wave of Covid 19 which seems to be even more threatening than the first one. As we look back over the year that has passed, we see the difficulties faced by people, but we can also we can trace the resilience of people all over the world. Moving forward with positive attitude we all have faced the challenges and explored new possibilities. At the academic institute we have been able to cope with online admissions, online classes, exams and field work and learnt from each other through the exchange of ideas, through webinars and interactions. Let this second wave of Covid 19 not restrict us but urge us to move forward courageously.

This year the International World Social Work Day which was celebrated on March 16th, focused on the theme Ubuntu: "I am because we are" which aims at strengthening social solidarity and global connectedness. This is the theme of the first decade 2020 to 2030 of the Global agenda for Social Work and Social Development. Ubuntu echoes with the social Work perspectives of the interconnectedness of all people and their environment. We are all connected and one can grow and progress through the growth and progression of others. Our engagement with people and communities, need to recognize our interdependence, to strengthen social solidarities, and build partnerships that resonate with the theme **Ubuntu: I am Because We Are.**

This issue of Perspectives in Social Work contains nine articles and two book reviews which range from issues pertinent to different target groups of women, media ecology, children, youth, and elderly touching upon various themes such as livelihood, work life, Covid 19 lockdown challenges, globalisation and urban local governance.

The first article by Anjana Parmar and John Gaingamlung Gangmei explores the work-life balance of women social workers in NGOs in Mumbai city, including the challenges, perceived stress, and supportive strategies. The article emphasises the irony that social workers who reach out to help the people, themselves have a very poor work life balance which needs to be attended to. It provides a way forward with organisational strategies that could alleviate stress factors in the workplace.

The second article by Dr. Plavendran Irudayasamy on media ecology explores that social change is born from the recognition that there is a tension between the information explosion which characterises the present world of communication, and the role of humanistic reasoning in increasing our chances of survival amidst the information explosion. He refers the term media ecology in order to explain comprehensively the meaning of a connected world. He sees the imbalance of a culture created largely by the communication medium as the problem and aims to provide some conceptual strategies to maintain a balance in this technologically saturated media environment. Such an approach calls for a holistic understanding of the effects of the forms of media on our culture.

The third article on the Plight of street children by Shailendra Singh Rana focuses on the socio-economic profile, the work and health profile of street children in the city of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The findings of the study suggest that although most of the children who live on the streets are young (9 to 12 years) and face many hardships, the ill treatment that they faced could not be correlated to either gender or age.

Dr. S. Lalitha, P Leena Roseline and Dr. Avilash Roul researches on the livelihood opportunities of slum youth of Vyasarpadi, North Chennai which is known to be a place of risk, deviant behaviour, criminal activity with migrants and, dock labourers. Their findings recommend that young entrepreneurs should be mentored and guided continuously to face the challenges related to their livelihood with a good support system. They suggest the

setting up of youth resource centres for their wholistic growth of youth in slums as well business skills training, financial support and networking with Government and NGOs.

Pradeep Kumar examines the present prospects and challenges of functional autonomy of urban local governance in Kerala in the context of its rapid pace of urbanisation. Most urban local bodies in the state are facing resource constraints and functional dilemmas carrying out their functions. The need for decentralization as an opportunity to improve efficiency in service delivery and to make government more responsive to citizens by extending powers to locally elected political representatives is much needed to strengthen the grass root governance.

Kiran Thampi's article discusses about the current national policy on elderly in India and analyzes the gaps in policy implementation. The concepts of age friendly cities and the determinants of active aging are identified and discussed to evolve a model to enable the concept of 'ageing in place' in the local context. This model could be useful for the policy makers and implementing systems including local administration. Mainstreaming ageing should be the main strategy in designing a policy for the persons concerned. Policy framework should effectively integrate every section and age group of the society as we have to accept the fact that the ageing group should be included in the normal pace of society. The involvement of the public, private and voluntary sector organizations in creating quantitative and qualitative data is required. The policy should have effective implementation too with the appropriate mobilization and allocation of resources.

Rohit Bharti his study on construction work, workers and welfare board in Delhi, states that the unorganised sector has a crucial role in the Indian economy. The study findings indicate the average wage in Delhi in which female workers earn less than their male counterpart. The construction workers are not covered under any social security measures. The study looks into the recent labour

reforms initiated in India, their implications on the Welfare Board and the need to implement the reforms.

Debanjana Nag's article is based on secondary data using the existing literature to understand the notion of Globalization in the contemporary period and how it has implications in the era of post –modernization. The article looks at how globalization has turned into a 'process of change' in various aspects of the society like economic and legal institutions, religious structures, educational and media institutions. It also views the relationship between Globalization and Development of social institutions and examines the cause of change in technology and further discusses the pace of change on the traditional society and the modern era towards post- modernism.

The article by Dr. Urvashi Mishra, Dr. Sarjoo Patel and Eliza Upadhyay on the problems faced by the non-residential students pursuing higher education during Covid 19 pandemic is a study conducted to assess the challenges and coping strategies adopted by students who were affected by the first lockdown in March 2020 and were unable to go back to their homes in their native place. The findings reveal the different challenges faced by these students during lockdown and their coping strategies adapted to overcome boredom.

Meghna Vesvikar in her review of a book authored by Nancy Boyd Webb on Social Work Practice with children highlights that social work practice with children is relevant by ensuring that social workers actively pursue learning and better engagement with clients and sustain therapeutic relationships. She further reiterates that this book would be a good guide for practitioners who, given the increasingly complex crises, traumas and stresses confronting families during the second decade of the 21st century, require greatly enhanced understanding and skills. It would increase practitioners' knowledge about the impact of multiple and intense stressors in children's lives while also presenting a range of effective helping approaches, and develop more positive

attachment relationships within families. It could also make social workers more eager and confident about working, thereby helping resolve problems before they intensify and become more resistant to intervention.

In his review of a book by Egan, G., and Reese, R. (2019) Dr. Ronald Yesudhas, highlights a comprehensive framework for counsellors in helping clients to manage problems by effective resource management and thus enable better functioning. He makes a point that the idea of fully functioning and self-actualization is common in both approaches of the Problem Management and Opportunity Development (PMOD) approach as well as the Carkhuff's Human Resource Development (HRD) approach. Both models place emphasis on attending to the client. It is also important to note that these two approaches are the most prominent models of counsellor training. It further states that it would be interesting to see if PMOD can be used in the Indian context and empirically studied on its efficacy.

Dr. Lidwin Dias

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