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- 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 issue of PISW brings our readers nine research based articles and reviews of two interesting books. As members of the social work profession, we need a body of scientific evidence to support our intervention and we need to strengthen our contribution to this body of evidence through research. Needless to mention, a crucial aspect is about the need to pay special attention to identifying a researchable area which is research worthy, through a critical review of literature, and help delineate what is being studied by way of a clear statement of research objectives and coherence between objectives. As researchers, we need to emphasize the trends and significant findings, describe the socio-cultural milieu, and present a rich and comprehensive analysis.

The first article in this issue titled *Human Trafficking for Labour and Its Unseen Victims: Jammu and Kashmir in Context* is by Insha Idrees and Bhat Iqball Majeed who analyse that various socio-economic, political and of course the extreme lawlessness and the failed state machinery are responsible for the presence of human trafficking in Jammu and Kashmir.The authors point to the need for civil society intervention with institutional support from the government structures for essential surveillance.

D.C.Nanjunda in the next article titled *Ignored Claims: AshramSchools and the Quality of Tribal Education in Karnataka*, highlights the problems and prospects of Ashram schools working in tribal areas, issues regarding the quality of education and academic achievement, and other issues of students.This paper points to infrastructural issues and degree of utilization of infrastructure in delivering quality education to tribal students. It suggests culture and geographic specific tribal education policies and changes to be incorporated in the teaching pedagogy to enhance learning ability, emotional ability, cognitive ability, and personality development of tribal students in the local language.

The third article in this issue is *Quality of Community Life, Life Satisfaction and Self-esteem of Transgender persons by* Sivan Gnanam and P.B.Shankar Narayan. The major focus of the study is on the Quality of Community Life, Life Satisfaction and Self-Esteem of the transgender persons living in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu state. This paper describes some of the harsh realities the faced by transgender persons face and indicates the need for further intervention to mainstream this group.

Jyoti Pali and Atiq Ahmed present a cross sectional survey titled *Menstrual Attitude, Experience and Sanitary Product Usage among School Students of Rural Uttar Pradesh* which assesses the menstrual attitude, menstrual experience and usage of the sanitary product among adolescent girls. A highlight of the findings is the silver lining that since the past one decade, many NGOs have scaled up menstrual awareness programs in rural areas.

The fifth article, *Household Food Insecurity among Mahadalits in Rural Bihar, India,* by Yogendra Musahar and Alok Kumar aims to examine the status of household food insecurity among the Mahadalits in rural Bihar. It also tries to explore the reasons affecting the status of household food insecurity. A multinomial logistic regression model suggests that family type, social groups, highest education level in the households and sources of the household income are significantly associated with household food insecurity.

Andria John and Laxmi present the major theories in the field of forest resource management from a social system perspective in the article titled *Forest Resource Management Practices of Scheduled Tribes: Theoretical Perspectives.* The purpose is to understand the applicability of these theories in the field of forest resource management. According to the authors, one of the important findings is that not many theories in social work are directly associated with human nature relationships or related to the common pool resource access of the direct forest dependent communities.

The seventh article by Renu Shah and Irene Tayshete titled *Women's perspective about impact of Covid19 Lockdown on their families within unorganized sector* analyses the opinion of women in the unorganised sector about the impact of pandemic induced lockdown upon their families in two different locations in the city of Mumbai. The authors attempt to know about their coping strategies along with the nature of support from various sources. The findings reveal the severe impact of the lockdown due to total loss of occupation and income. The authors conclude that it is time for care professionals such as social workers to ensure the basic minimum quality of life for these people and make the state accountable towards rebuilding their lives.

Sonal Bhatt's article titled *Are Peoples' Representatives Effective as Catalysts of Development? Lessons from Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)* attempts to understand the status with regard to the objectives and vision of SAGY in selected villages of Gujarat and Rajasthan. It concludes that even as the people's representatives have been given a role as agents of change under SAGY, participation from village officials and the rural people themselves is also essential for fulfilling the objectives of the scheme.

The ninth article by Evergreat Wanglar, *Efficacy of Child care institutional services in Manipur: Children's perspective* reflects a study that tries to determine the efficacy of various services given in Manipur's child care institutions. The findings reflect the current situation and several concerns that need to be addressed in relation to health, education, vocational training, hygiene and sanitation, as well as residential and recreational amenities.

The book reviewed by Meghna Vesvikar, *Family Engagement with Schools: Strategies for School Social Workers and Educators,* drives home the fact that family engagement is an effective approach to improving education for all children, marginalized or otherwise. And Roshni Alphonso reviews an open access book titled *Domestic Violence in Immigrant Communities:*

Case Studies which highlights the powerlessness of women concerning decisions related to security and wellbeing.

Collectively, the papers and book reviews in this issue provide important empirical insights into human trafficking, tribal education, transgenders, menstruation, food insecurity, forest resource management practices, impact of lockdown on the informal economy, people's representation for development, issues of child care institutions, family engagement and domestic violence.

Readers can look forward to several such papers in our future issues too….

Dr. Geeta Balakrishnan

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