VOL. XXXVIII, (No. 1) - APRIL-2023 ISSN 0974-5114

UGC approved Journal under Social Sciences

Perspectives in Social Work

College of Social Work (Autonomous),
Nirmala Niketan
Mumbai

VOL. XXXVIII, (No.1) - APRIL-2023 ISSN 0974-5114

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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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Perspectives in Social Work is published thrice a year by the College of Social Work, (Autonomous),Nirmala Niketan, 38, New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400 020

Perspectives in Social Work journal of the College of Social Work (Autonomous) has been approved by the University Grant Commission http://ugccare.unipune.ac.in Journal under Social Sciences

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38, New Marine lines,
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Perspectives in Social Work

Vol. XXXVIII, (No.1) - APRIL-2023 ISSN 0974-5114

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Editorial

The gamut of issues handled by social workers and social work researchers is very wide and we have several challenges to combat in the future years. Most importantly, we need to respond to the changing environment, build earning and financial capacities, and work towards social justice and equal opportunity. As we present the papers in this issue of *Perspectives in Social Work*, my reflection is that we need to engage in reviewing and evaluating our research initiatives, relook at our research methods and methodologies, and keep abreast of ongoing local and global processes in this new age of technology and social media.

Although selected purely by chronological date of acceptance for publication, the articles in this issue show an interesting range of relevant issues, including resilience of marginalised women, life conditions of informal workers, and stigma related problems faced by transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, in addition to professional road blocks such as practice based challenges of professional social workers, invisible disabilities faced by research scholars as well as indigenisation of professional social work.

Social workers have the challenge of minimizing social isolation. The first article is about the resilience shown by tribal widows of Idukki district, Kerala. Though the women in the sample revealed a fair amount of resilience post the passing of their spouses, the authors recommend increased availability of educational opportunities and facilities.

The authors in the second article on indigenisation of social work trace the genesis of social work education in India against the backdrop of globalisation and make specific mention of indigenous intervention initiatives. They call for efforts to devise a core body focused on research and documentation, and stress on the importance of adhering to the minimum standards of education and practice.

In present times, it is clear that informal activities account for a sizeable portion of the economy of developing countries. In the third article of this issue, the authors highlight the life conditions of informal workers across the globe and reiterate the need for decent and respectable employment for all employees.

Transformative social work practice is required to meet the current and complex needs of diverse and vulnerable individuals, families, and communities in order to enhance their strengths. Towards this, it is imperative that social work educators have the required support systems to reach out to students pursuing social work education. The fourth article stresses on the practice based challenges faced by social work educators in Odissa, with the suggestion from the authors to address the curricular issues in the state and also uphold the dignity of educators and practitioners.

The penultimate article is based on a study of invisible disabilities including depression, anxiety and stress among research scholars in Kerala. The researchers used the DASS-21- the Depression Anxiety and Stress scale to study the coping and self-management skills and suggest mental health awareness programmes and life skills education for the sample participants.

Our profession is still struggling to understand the transgender community and gender non-conforming persons. The last article highlights the stigma and discrimination faced by this community due to the normalization of heteronormativity, gender dichotomy, and stereotyped body image ideas in society. The author calls for a gender-inclusive approach to normalise the gender-diverse society.

Over the past 39 years, *Perspectives in Social Work* has published scores of critical articles across cross cutting themes. The Editorial team thanks each one of our readers and we sincerely hope that we continue to take social work forward together.

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