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# Perspectives in Social Work

College of Social Work (Autonomous),
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Mumbai

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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

In times marked by uncertainty and rapid change, social work professionals are called upon to reflect, innovate, and respond with resilience. These challenging circumstances demand not only the sharing of knowledge and experience, but also critical engagement with new methods of intervention and practice. The ability to adapt creatively and face instability with strength has become essential for today's social work practitioners. In this issue of Perspectives in Social Work, six contributors spanning researchers, practitioners, and educators offer valuable insights through their research, field experiences, and reflections. Together, their contributions enrich the discourse on how social work can remain responsive and impactful in the face of ongoing and emerging challenges.

The first article by Saloni Kumar and Meenu Sharma titled *"Exploring the Gendered Experiences of School Teachers in Delhi"* investigates how gender influences the professional experiences of teachers in private schools. Based on in-depth qualitative interviews with selected male and female teachers in Delhi, the study brings out three major themes around gendered roles, career advancement, and workplace dynamics. The findings reveal that female teachers often face stereotypes, limited leadership opportunities, and structural biases, reinforcing the pink-collar label. In contrast, male teachers, though fewer in number, frequently benefit from quicker promotions and positive visibility. Interestingly, both male and female teachers adopt strategies to navigate and resist traditional gender roles within the profession. The paper concludes with a discussion on gendered challenges and highlights the need for inclusive policies and institutional support to promote equality in the education sector.

The second article by Mr. Cletus Zuzarte, titled *"Promoting Sustainable Rural Entrepreneurship among Kathkari Women in Mangaon, Raigad District"*, explores how tribal women engage with social entrepreneurship through SHGs. Drawing from case studies in Talegaon and Rudravali villages, the study highlights the role of the SVD Model in enabling livelihood development despite challenges like limited finance and market access. It emphasizes the importance of cultural sensitivity and support systems. The paper concludes with insights on fostering inclusive growth in subsistence marketplaces through social work interventions.

The third article by Dr. Treesa T Pulickal, titled *"Role of Social Participation and Civic Engagement in Building Resilience: A Study among Adolescents in Disadvantaged Communities"*, explores how civic involvement contributes to adolescent resilience. Conducted in three disadvantaged communities in Kerala, the qualitative study involved 24 adolescents aged 15–19 through interviews and FGDs. Findings revealed themes such as skill development, external exposure, stigma, and lack of mentors. The study highlights how meaningful participation strengthens resilience despite limited resources. It concludes with a call to enhance social support systems and stakeholder involvement to foster adolescent development through civic and social engagement initiatives.

The fourth article by Barasha Sarma and Madhusmita Kalita, titled *"Rural Libraries as Places for Women Empowerment in Assam"*, explores how rural public libraries can serve as community hubs to meet women's diverse information needs ranging from education and health to livelihood and governance. Through content analysis of 44 Scopus-indexed articles, the study identifies socio-economic and cultural factors influencing women's empowerment in Assam.

Despite their potential, rural libraries face challenges like poor infrastructure, limited ICT access, and lack of trained staff. The authors recommend immediate government intervention to strengthen rural libraries as inclusive spaces that foster gender equality and social development.

The fifth article by Pradeep Jare and Jaimon Varghese, titled *"Teaching Critical Perspectives: A Praxis Framework in Social Work Education and Practice"*, explores the significance of integrating critical theories into social work education to cultivate critical consciousness among students. The paper reflects on the tensions between conventional and progressive approaches in the discipline and argues for a transformative pedagogy that goes beyond structured curricula. By adopting a praxis-oriented framework, the authors emphasize the role of educators in not just imparting knowledge but actively challenging dominant narratives and encouraging students to critically engage with social realities. The paper calls for innovative, reflective teaching methods that equip future social workers with the tools to question, analyze, and act in the face of systemic inequality and oppression.

The sixth article by Rakesh M. Gandhi and Prof. (Dr.) S. D. Mishra, titled *"Breaking Barriers: Examining the Effects of Dysfunctional ICDS Management on Anganwadi Workers' Efficiency in Gujarat"*, investigates how systemic and operational issues within the ICDS scheme affect Anganwadi Workers' efficiency. Based on structured interviews with 370 AWWs across five zones of Gujarat, the study reveals challenges such as workload pressure, delayed salaries, inadequate infrastructure, low digital literacy, and lack of administrative support. The findings highlight how these dysfunctions undermine worker morale and service quality. The authors recommend infrastructure upgrades, policy reforms, and stronger community engagement to support AWWs and improve ICDS outcomes.

*Perspectives in Social Work* continues to serve as a vital platform for sharing research, reflections, and critical dialogue in the field of social work. This edition furthers the journal's commitment to deepening theoretical insights, influencing policy directions, and strengthening practice. By featuring diverse voices and innovative approaches, especially in times of uncertainty, the journal upholds its role in fostering thought leadership and encouraging transformative action across the social work profession.

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