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CONTENTS

Editorial

- Field work practicum and its supervision in social work training 99
Ipe Varughese

Articles

- Strengthening social work practice in schools in India:
Reflections from theory 102
Meenu Anand
- Digital divide and online learning:
A study of school going students in Bolpur 122
Kheyali Roy, Shaurya Prakash
- A study on the influence of culture on child rights 138
Sandhra P J, Sarah Stephen
- Get connected; enriching parent-child bond in the contemporary society 148
Anisha Thampy, Anupama Haridas
- Mental strain on women in urban India during COVID-19
imposed lock down: An analysis 162
Shweta Verma, Sapna Dogra, Anup Kumar Srivastava
- Role of parents in raising children in digital world;
Special referance to Covid 19 Pandemic 175
Krishnendhu A P, Sree Rekha K Znith, Ajitha P P

EDITORIAL

Field work practicum and its supervision in social work training

Social work is an international profession which is practiced in more than 150 countries. In these countries social work training has been regulated either through council or by the universities. Social work training (education) has both academic and practical components. The practical aspects are the application of theoretical components taught in the classroom and field-based education involving integration of the academic aspect in practice. The field practicum helps the student to get acquainted with the real field situation and to attain experiences of Social Work practice.

IFSW definition (2014) says, “Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. The above definition may be amplified at national and/or regional levels”

In India, social work is taught in more than 500 institutions and majority are in the PG levels. Students from different academic back ground join for MSW/MA (SW) programme. Fieldwork in a social work curriculum provides supervised practice in the application of theoretical methods of the discipline so that the students are able to practice efficiently with people in different social situations at micro, meso and macro levels. It is through the field work that a student attain practical learning and develop skills for practice.

Fieldwork supervision in Social Work training has most important role. Students integrate classroom learning in the field and acquire professional skills. The purpose of social work education to create competent social workers who can provide their services to the society is achieved through proper fieldwork with effective supervision. Fieldwork supervision helps students to promote professional growth and assume responsibilities.

In the outcome based education system, the learning of a trainee should gradually develop and improve as the trainee climbs through each semester to higher levels of knowledge and skills. Integrating theory into practice, skills of observation and reporting and each competency should steadily improve. All these can be achieved only through proper supervision at both ends ie. at the college and in the field organization.

Field work supervisors require to undergo regular training on supervision. There should be discussion among the faculty members regarding the supervision and also with the practitioners/supervisors from the field organization. Any lapse in this part will result in inefficiency of trainees in the practice. Social Work education will be successful only if the educators are in touch with field practitioners and constantly update their knowledge.

In the present issue of 'educere-bcm journal of social work' the article by Meenu Anand reflects from theory on strengthening social Work practice in schools. The article is of great relevance as the role of social workers in schools has been emphasized in the National Education Policy 2020. The article various models of social work practice in schools and the intertwining tasks of social workers and teacher educators in a school setting. The paper addresses the challenges of school social work and multitier roles of social worker in schools.

In the second article Kheyali Roy and Shaurya Prakash discuss how digital affects the online classes in students of Bolpur. The study has been conducted by considering few cases and going for study covering different dimensions.

The extend of children enjoying their rights varies from society to society

based on the culture. 'The influence of culture on child rights' has been covered by Sandra P J and Sarah Stephen in the third article. The article is based on review of 16 research papers and understand the issues of children in different countries.

The fourth article by Anisha Thampy and Anupama Haridas through article 'Get connected: Enriching parent child bond in the contemporary society' describes how parent child relationship can be improved in a society where the expectations of both parent and child have changed in the present society.

Mental strain on women in urban India during COVID -19 imposed lockdown has been analysed by Shweta Verma, Sapna Dogra and Anup Kumar Srivastava in the fifth article. The article also explores the consequences of work-from-home arrangements on the mental health and well-being of working women.

Role of parents in raising children in digital world has been discussed in the sixth article by Krishnendhu A P, Sreerekah K Zenith and Ajitha PP.

Ipe Varughese

Associate Editor