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Editorial

National education policy and Social Work education in India

The National Education Policy 2020 has raised a lot of concerns, especially for Social Work education. In the absence of a regulatory body for social workers, social work programmes are being treated at par with other general streams by UGC. The intention of government to prepare students with multi-disciplinary skills is a welcoming approach but being a profession, how far social work can be treated like other subjects is a serious question. The proposed four years degree programme is indeed good option for Social Work which is being followed in other countries also. But the free entry and exit system may not be feasible in social work. Presently India has around 600 social work education institutions, out of this, 75% of them are having only programme at masters level. There are less schools having Bachelor programme in Social Work. This means that the four year degree programme may not benefit the social work education. Otherwise all such institutions should be permitted to start degree programme also. There are many aided institutions in Kerala running Master of Social Work programme in unaided stream. Presently in the state of Kerala, government is not permitting the aided institutions to start new unaided programmes. The situation demands a thorough study and proper solutions. The associations like KAPS in Kerala and INPSWA at national level should intervene in this and approach government for appropriate solutions.

The Vol. 18(i) of educere has articles from different dimensions. The first article by Rosario, Marcos, Aguayo Najera and Lirios discusses the need for justice system in the distribution of resources in order to avoid conflicts and maintain sustainability. This is very much relevant in the pandemic situation.

The second article by Joseph, Shahul, Abraham and Joy discuss the resilience of different types of families in dealing with COVID 19 pandemic situation. The impact and resilience required vary depending on the type of family and their existing needs. The paper also includes an analysis of the measures undertaken by the governmental and nongovernmental organizations to support families and limitations that exist.

The third article is a conceptual paper that encapsulates the challenges faced by children in conflict with law and presents the social work interventions to effectively address the same. The study addresses the problems in social challenges, family related factors, educational setback and systemic factors.

The fourth article is based on an investigation done by Jesley Jacob and Jose Antony on the research interest and research self-efficacy of Master of Social Work (MSW) Students in Kerala and various research related factors involved with their training. Research interest and research self-efficacy of MSW students is taken as a predictor of research involvement of future social workers. The future of research in social work discipline and the sustainability of the professional knowledge base of the discipline is based on the research interest of the students during their training.

The fifth article is on mental strain of women in urban India during COVID-19 imposed lockdown by Shweta Verma, Sapna Dogra and Anup Kumar Srivastava. The article examines the influence of COVID-19-related putative risk variables on rates of mental health outcomes in women and explore various impacts of lockdown and the consequences of work-from-home arrangements on the mental health and well-being of working women.

In the sixth article Nancy Susan Philip studied a topic that is widely discussed in the contemporary society that is on the role of parents in the empowerment of their children against child sexual abuse.

A special appreciation to all authors for their contribution for this issue. The knowledge shared through this issue will be highly useful for the practicing social workers both in the field and academic institutions.

Ipe Varughese