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Editorial

Acquiring Competency in Social Work training

The very purpose of social work training is making efficient social workers for practice. Social Work training is progressive in nature adding knowledge through each course and providing sufficient time for practice. The quality of social work training is a question that has been discussed over the years. At present there is no proper systems existing in India to monitor the training or practice aspects of social workers. The number of training institutions in India is increasing every year. Presently there are about 550 Social work training institutions in India and majority of them are in the self finance stream. The curriculum aspect of the training schools are regulated by respective universities. 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. There should be some systems for the measurement of expected outcome of social work training.

Every social worker needs to be competent for practice. The IFSW definition (2014) for social work points at various objectives of social work and scope of its practice.

The nine CSWE core competencies Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behaviour, Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice, Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice, Engage in

Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice, Engage in Policy Practice, Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities, Assessing them, make interventions and evaluate the practice with them. (<https://www.texascollege.edu/the-nine-cswe-social-work-competencies>). Many other organizations and universities explain the competencies required for social workers along with practice behaviours on the similar lines.

India need to evolve certain criteria which is applicable to all universities for measuring the competencies of trainees at different levels. The network of all the Social Work associations in India – INPSWA should work on creating such a system. India with its diverse social situations should think about developing additional competencies also. The associations should consider this as the need of the time.

The articles in the present issue of *educere* contribute to the growth of the profession. Ishita Kapur in the first article discusses the issue of raising children in the digital world. The second article by Anjana and Ashok S Kori deals with Psycho-social issues of children during Covid-19 and role of professional social workers. Deepak Joseph along with Anish K R gives the report of a thorough study on the social work education in Kerala in the third article. Lilly C D narrates the study on sedentary life style and its impact on mental health through the fourth article. In the fifth article, Shimpy Chanda deals with Juvenile delinquency (Social and psychological perspective) and Its prevention and correctional measures) . in the sixth article , Mallika Gaur discusses the risks and challenges in Parenting in post pandemic times.

Educere team is hopeful that the knowledge shared through these articles will be useful for the social workers in their practice.

Ipe Varughese