

educere

BCM Journal of Social Work

Volume 19, Issue 1, June 2023

ISSN 2249-1090



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
Bishop Chulaparambil Memorial College
Kottayam-686001
Kerala, India

Educere- BCM Journal of Social Work
Volume 19, Issue 1, June 2023

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ISSN 2249-1090
Vol 19 Issue 1
June 2023
<https://bcmcollege.ac.in/pications/educere>

Editorial

Continuous Professional Development for Social Workers

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is a term for the reflection and learning activities that social workers do throughout their career. CPD should maintain and improve a social worker's practice. CPD is the reflection and learning activity that social workers undertake throughout their career to maintain and improve their practice. It is an important part of a social worker's professional standards. By undertaking and recording CPD, a social worker demonstrates to the public, their regulator and their employer that they uphold those professional standards.

It is important that employers provide their social workers with time and opportunities to carry out regular and effective CPD, fostering an open learning culture where social workers are supported through supervision to carry out learning activities that they feel benefit them and their practice.

Towards supporting staff development, all employers should have effective induction systems for all social workers. There should be a tailored support for newly qualified social workers through an assessed and supported year in employment (ASYE) programme, including protected development time, a managed workload, tailored supervision and personal development plans. There is need for an appraisal or performance review system which assesses how well professional practice is delivered, that includes the feedback of people with lived experience of the social worker's practice and identifies continuing professional development (CPD) has come to be seen as an es-

sential part of the professional life of social workers. Regulatory bodies have made it a condition for maintaining registration while professional associations routinely promote it among their members. Policymakers claim that CPD has the potential to increase rates of recruitment and retention, boost the flagging morale of the workforce, and improve services to clients. To meet the challenges of contemporary social work, practitioners are expected to constantly upskill.

The present issue of 'educere -BCM Journal of social work' comprise of six articles. The first article by Anna Taney Varghese looks at the perceptions on sex education. The study was conducted in Delhi among parents and teachers. The study appraise perceptions of parents and teachers on the relevance and content of sex education to children, assess the roles of parents and teachers in content delivery and modalities of sex education and suggests an intervention model for capacity building of parents and teachers to deal with sex education for children.

Edness Rutta and Chittaranjan Subudhi in the second article assess the role of forensic social workers in behaviour shaping of children in delinquency prevention. The study found out that behaviour change at young age is possible. Behaviour being a replication of individual feelings, thinking and emotions at young age it is easy to change a person's ideas, perceptions and opinions. implicated positive changes of behaviour. The study also found out that school environment can be a place to build or break the child

In the third article, Anna Jolly assess the individual's nature relatedness, mental wellbeing and spiritual wellbeing and also study the relationship between the individual's nature relatedness and their mental and spiritual wellbeing. The study was conducted among youth in Bangalore. Interestingly the study shows a relation between nature relatedness and mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Athira, Muhammed and Subha in the fourth article examines teachers' perceptions about reporting child sexual abuse (CSA). The study is very relevant with India's high rate of crimes against minors. The study stressed the significance of educational programmes for teachers to prevent child sexual abuse, furthermore, teacher reporting guidelines.

In the fifth article, Litta Merin Thomas discuss the ‘Influence of Socio-demographic Variables on Thriving Among Adolescents’ Mental health and thriving are crucial in adolescence since it is a shared responsibility. Thriving is important for successful development of an adolescent’s behaviour modification. Social support together with thriving helps to lead a normative behaviour when they come under stress. The study explore the relationship between various sociodemographic variables and thriving and its levels among adolescents.

The sixth article is based on an emperical study conducted by Ramesh Kommath, Rakhi and Reeja on Transgender life and Kerala society. The study examines the experiences and challenges faced by transgender individuals in the context of Kerala society. Kerala, a state in India, has a unique socio-cultural environment that influences the lived realities of transgender people. The shed light on their social, psychological, and economic conditions.

A special appreciation to all authors for their valuable contributions to this issue. This issue will be highly useful for the social work community.

Ipe Varughese