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Editorial

Social Work training: Need for training beyond institutions

How important is for Social Work education and practice to journey together? The very purpose of social work education is moulding the students to become good practitioners. Considering the Indian situation, there may be about 600 institutions in India offers regular BSW/MSW programmes. Mostly the social work education talk about education only, they prefer to consider social work education as a separate profession and maintains very less connection with practitioners during the period of training.

What is the need to maintain a constant contact with practitioners? Social Workers often comment that there is very less theories that are being practiced in the field. In other words; what the trainees learn in class rooms are not really being practiced. Though there may be exceptions, it is a reality. If it is so, there is a big gap exists between education and practice. Social Workers need to address this issue. It is the need of the time that education and practice go hand in hand. Now we need to ensure that social work trainees have a good learning experience with practitioners. Many places the training aims only at successful completion of a PG programme. The aim should be to become efficient practitioners with adequate competency.

The social work institutions should create a system where there is opportunity for regular interaction with practitioners. The practitioners also should realise that spending quality time with schools and trainees is a requirement for the profession. The education should go beyond the institution. This should be a mutually beneficial experience.

The present issue of 'educere -BCM Journal of social work' comprise of six articles. The first is article by Erika Lizbeth Vega Anaya and Gladston Xavier. The article covers three case studies as the initiatives towards menstrual health. The cases are taken from Tamilnadu, Gujarat and Rajasthan states.

The world has not yet fully recovered from the impact of COVID-19. The education system has totally undergone a transformation to online classes during COVID-19. The rural India was highly effected as there was not enough gadgets for online education in the houses of the poor. Nikitha Gupta in the second article discuss the situation of Dehradun District of Uttarakand state. Considering the fact that 68.84% of India's population lives in the rural areas, the study has more scope for discussion.

In 2022, the incident cases of cancer in India was 14,61,427. Ngcebo Precious Dlamini and Abraham Mutluri in the third article narrates the role of professional socialworkers in the prevention, care and support services of cancer patients . The study was conducted in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The article brings out 23 types of activities and responsibilities in which social workers can be involved. The study also suggests oncology -social work specialisation in the academics. The article also give details of government schemes for the welfare of cancer patients.

The problem children faces in our society is always given priority over other issues. Internally displaced children faces multifaceted issues. The situation in Manipur due to the internal conflicts affects children a lot fourth article by Grace Latinso deals with the problems of internally displaced children who are staying in different relief shelters in the Manipur state.

In the fifth article, Litta Merin Thomas and Jose Antony discuss the 'Influence of family, friends and significant others on perceived social support among adolescents.' The study among higher secondary school students shows that majority get high level of support. This study shows support systems like families, friends and significant others play a crucial role in helping adolescents develop resilience and coping mechanisms to deal with the challenges they face in their daily life.

The sixth article is a kind of film review on American Medical thriller;

'Contagion' about the spread of a deadly fictional MEV-I virus and the struggle of health officials to identify and contain the fatal virus. The film brings forth all what world has experienced during COVID-19 pandemic such as social distances or isolation, quarantine, vaccine etc. The pandemic affects the social order and it focus on the societal consequences because of the spread of virus. the film depicts social distances, prioritisation of access to treatment, misinformation, deception and crime in pursuit of self protection and government's effort for hiding facts. The author argues that the film becomes important from a sociological point of view and high similarity with the onset of COVID-19.

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